



Chief David Knox and Mervyn Child took part in the PHSS Health & Wellness Day by hosting live carving demonstrations and storytelling to the groups of students in the woodshop class.

Aboriginal Programs and Services Newsletter



December – Ło'yanx Leaves fallen time

Winter season – Łsa'wanx

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2019



Port Hardy Secondary School

PHSS students with Chaperones Angela Clair and Eric Baker attend a Youth Leading Reconciliation forum in Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) territory. This was the first open invitation for the Youth Leading Reconciliation event, as it has been a closed event for the last few years. PHSS students had the opportunity to take part in various workshops/breakout groups, cultural sharing and even public speaking. Our students did an amazing job representing PHSS.

PHSS had the pleasure of doing a Health & Wellness Fair. Elder Maggie Sedgemore came to do cedar weaving with our students. A few of the students made a cedar wreath to honor Tyrese.



North Island Secondary School

NISS students and staff are actively involved in learning more of the Kwak'waka language. With the work and support of Rosalind McKinney, Ida Miller, and Pearl Johnston, students and staff are adding to their Kwak'waka expressions. We have added a language wall, a Maya'xala appreciation board and new signage to various entrances. NISS Continues to add Kwak'waka Language around the School



Universities and colleges gathered in the NISS multipurpose room for a career fair with an Aboriginal focus in mind. Youth from all grades visited each campus booth to discuss their future endeavors and see what options are out there in the workforce and how to get there. The students all gathered after the fair was over to sing a few celebration songs before the visitors made their way back down island.



Fort Rupert Elementary School

Fort Rupert Elementary is developing a new culture program. Many thanks to Florence Vesey for her many visits and spending time with our students. She shares stories and language with our staff and students for which we are truly grateful.

Our Cultural Support worker, Tamara Keiver, has brought history lessons, creative crafts, and language to all our classes. We spend plenty of time at Storeys beach where we use the colours and things in nature to support language learning. Our entire school went to U'mista in October. I was very proud that because of the lessons they had learned, our students connected to the history and stories that were shared. Fort Rupert Elementary looks forward to creating more connections in the community in order to bring more culture and language to our students. Our hope is to be part of a program that promotes sustainable cultural development that goes beyond our walls and bells.



AJ Elliott Elementary School



The year is off to a wonderful start at A.J. Elliott. In September our students learned about residential schools and made their own orange t-shirts to show that every child matters.

In October, the primary students learned about family and created their own family totem poles. The intermediate students learned about first nation moon cycles and created fabric moons during art that will be displayed in the school. In November, we spent time learning about Indigenous veterans. To honor all veterans the students each created a Thunderbird Poppy.



The Intermediate class has also found wonderful resources to enhance their simple machine unit. One example of a question they explored was: What are three simple machine technologies that First Nation's people used? The Royal Museum of BC has wonderful examples and pictures that can be shared with a class.

One of the goals in our Math Inquiry Project, which will span the whole year, is to authentically incorporate more place-based learning and culture into math. Our first theme was berries. The students picked and then estimated, counted, weighed and measured their berries. They also learned about traditional harvesting and the ways berries were used and preserved, as well as learning about seasonal rounds. Another activity the primary class enjoyed was making dye using berries for their dragonfly formline design wall hangings. They also made blackberry leather which everyone enjoyed. Both classes will be making jam and jelly as a culminating activity before moving on to our next theme.



Cheslakees Elementary School

What a wonderful start to the school year we've had. September had us making blackberry jam to take home and discuss the importance of this harvesting. In October our First Nations support worker started painting the button blanket picture frames with students. October also saw the arrival of *gala*, *kwikw* and *max'inux* puppets to the classroom. Children have been using them to reenact the use of salmon in the food chain.

Language is so tightly connected to culture that we use it in the school daily as part of the teachings. Teachers have taught the children how to greet each other with *Gilakas'la*. Some students can also introduce themselves in *Kwak'wala*. *Kasa* is heard as a gentle reminder in the halls and classrooms. After Christmas we will see the arrival of our *gi'ni*.



Eagle View Elementary School

Project based learning is a natural way to integrate local ways of knowing and doing into the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) curriculum. Harold Nelson, Culture and Language teacher has been teaching intermediate students, their teachers, and support staff the skills required when weaving cedar and making button blankets.

For the past three weeks, Grade Six students have been preparing to create their own cedar headpieces for our Yayuma celebration later in the school year. Students first learned how to soak and then strip cedar bark in preparation for weaving. In subsequent sessions, students began soaking their own cedar strips in preparation for class. Mr. Nelson then taught the weaving technique; students were eagerly engaged and began weaving on their own. They are well on their way to producing the headpieces that they will later wear. Students are incredibly vested in this project because of the ownership they have in being able to wear their headpieces later in the year.



Sunset Elementary School

It has been the season of eating at Sunset this fall. Our primary classes have been exploring local foods and to date have made blackberry syrup, rosehip tea, and deer jerky. I understand that the jerky was a particular favorite! We were given a loan of animal pelts and antlers by the deer meat donator, and our students were able to handle these and explore the softness of the fur and the smoothness of the antlers. We have also served moose meat spaghetti out of our focus room, which went very fast. The food theme carries on with an invitation from Alert Bay Elementary students to join them for a bowl of yusa. Our grade 6 and 7 students will soon be traveling to the Bay to sample this traditional food.

Our grade 1-2 students are learning all about regalia at this time as part of a potlatch unit. They will learn about BigHouse protocol and about some of the masks and dances. Towards the end of the year, these little people will learn a dance and host a play potlatch of their own.

Orange Shirt Day was our opportunity to remind our students and our community that every child matters. Sunset was a sea of orange on September 30, as students were told the story of Phyllis Webstad and her orange shirt. Students then took part in an activity designed to showcase each of them as individuals.

We have 240 little individuals at Sunset and our staff work tirelessly to ensure that each of them sees him or herself reflected in our daily routines, our curriculum, and in our care.

Gilakas'la



Alert Bay Elementary School

Alert Bay School students were busy this fall preparing for our Salmon Feast.

We were very lucky this year to be gifted pink salmon food fish from the Namgis First Nation. We were very grateful to the fisherman and the crew for providing our school with the pink salmon that we shared with our guests. With the help of Chief Norman Glendale, Helen Glendale, Karissa Glendale, and Aunties Modi and Gundy, students helped prepare food to serve at the feast.

Students not only helped prepare the food, but they served it to every guest in the room.

We often sing songs after a great meal. Feast songs have important meaning and history about the Chiefs who own them. We sang a feast song that was an old song from the West Coast of Vancouver Island, and is now owned by the Namgis.

Along the B.C. Coast salmon are a key-stone species, which means they are essential to the well-being of the entire Eco-system. Wild salmon stocks have depleted, we have researched in Science class some of the threats. We want to celebrate the return of the wild salmon, even with all of the threats that our salmon are faced with they still come home every year and another cycle begins.

We also danced the dance of the salmon to celebrate the return of the pink salmon and our good fortune. We learned the dance and song, and it comes from the Kwagu'ł.

We ended our feast with the Am'lala (Fun Dance). It is danced at the completion of a ceremony. We were grateful for our many guests and friends who came to celebrate with us including the students from North Island Secondary, and Sunset Elementary Schools.

A lot of effort went into our feast. Many thanks to our Culture and Language Teacher Ernest Alfred for leading us through another amazing celebration.



Alert Bay students preparing for the Salmon Feast



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

This fall has been a busy and productive time at Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre. Our World Language came back to Port Hardy to work with a number of young film makers from both Eke Me-Xi and Port Hardy Secondary School. Between the two schools there were 10 films made at Eke Me-Xi and showcased at Port Hardy Secondary School. The films will be entered into various film festivals and can be viewed at www.ourworldlanguage.ca.

Our students have also been gifted with working with N'we Jinan to produce a music video "MY K'WALA'YU". Students who are in satisfactory academic standing and are meeting school conduct expectations will be working towards going to the N'we Jinan Youth Conference in Montreal April 2020. The video can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3wvMwWIOo4&list=RDa3wvMwWIOo4&start_radio=1&t=166



Kwak'wala Corner

- Kismis K'wax – Christmas Tree
- T'amyayu – Bells
- Nigwat'si – Candle
- Yagwam – Gifts
- Meli Kismis – Merry Christmas
- Lx'kasala – Celebrate
- Walkw – Cedar
- Nogad – Wisemen
- Lki'lakw – Miracle
- Maya'xala – Respect all things
- Tutu – Star
- Sandi T'los – Santa Claus





First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Please stay tuned for a vaping workshop that will be hosted by FNHA in the New Year at North Island Secondary School.



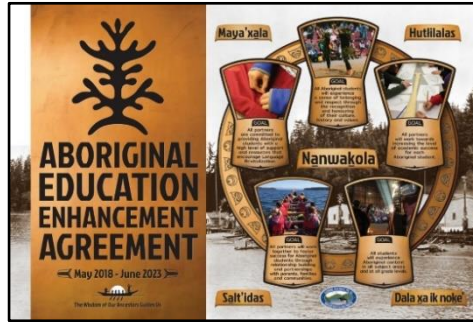
ISPARC
Indigenous Sport,
Physical Activity & Recreation Council

Gilakas'la! To ISPARC for partnering with SD85 to help us offer Performance Sports Programs and Healthy Living Activities to our students, their parents and our staff.

First Nations Education Steering Committee Conference 2019

This year 15 members of our Aboriginal Education team participated in the annual FNEC conference. Each year, approximately 800 educators attend this exciting event. With the 2019 year theme, *Meeting Diverse Student Needs*, we focused on the following topics:

- meeting the needs of current and former children and youth in care
- creating effective Local Education Agreements and other accountability tools
- creating learning environments and curricula that are inclusive and responsive
- developing quality First Nations language and culture programming



Are you interested in becoming a Role Model?

The purpose of the Aboriginal Role Model Program is to provide schools with the opportunity to invite Elders and other community members into the classroom to share their expertise and knowledge. Role Models engage in direct services to students in the classroom or in a field trip setting. The program is also designed to support and assist teachers in various Aboriginal approaches and methods.

Join our Elders in Residence Program

The Elders in Residence program is intended to provide the support of elders and knowledge keepers in classrooms and in schools to support learning. The role of an elder can be to enhance cultural perspectives and share wisdom and teachings, promote awareness of cultural traditions, encourage the use of Kwakwaka in schools, or act as a mentor and guide for all students.



Gilakas'la

For more information about our Aboriginal Programs with SD85, please visit our website:

<http://www.sd85.bc.ca/wordpress/programs-ab-ed/>

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.

KUU-US Crisis Services

24 HOUR CRISIS SERVICES

A place where you can talk, trust and feel.
Help is only a phone call away.

Adult / Elder 250-723-4050 Child / Youth 250-723-2040 Toll Free (B.C.) 1-800-KUU-US17

December 2019 – Calendar of Support Services

7 Days/week

(EWS) Extreme Weather Shelter (Salvation Army) for adults @ the Providence Place 5:30pm-6:30am

24/7

Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society 1-800-KUU-US-17 (1-800-588-8717)

Vancouver Island Crisis Line 1-888-494-3888

911 Emergency

*** Various North Island support services have closure in effect during holiday season.

(NIC) NI Community Services Society (Port McNeill) CLOSED Dec. 24 (12pm) – Jan 1st Main Office (250-956-3134)

(PHPHCC) Port Hardy Primary Health Care Centre (Doctor's Clinic) – CLOSED Dec. 24 (after 12 noon), 25th, & 26th (250-902-6008)

Agencies Closed only Dec 25, 26, & Jan 1 – Otherwise OPEN. See hours below.

(LRC) Lighthouse Resource Centre (Salvation Army) 9:30am-12pm/1pm-4pm (250-616-8125)

(MCFD) Child Protection and Child & Youth Mental Health 9am-12pm/1pm-4pm (250-949-8011)

(NIBB) NI Building Blocks, Holiday Hours 1pm-4:30pm (250-949-5101)

(NICCCS) NI Crisis & Counselling Centre Society 9am-5pm (250-949-8333)

(IH MHSU) Island Health Mental Health & Substance Use 8:30am-4:30pm (250-902-6051)



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

