



## AJ Elliott Elementary School

The students at A.J. Elliott have had a very busy second term. They have been enjoying our Cedar Inquiry theme and below you can see some of the activities they have taken part in. We would also like to thank Ada Vera (Vera Newman) and Gwanti'lakw for visiting the school and helping us with our Kwak'wala.

**December:** K - 7 students had fun creating a Northwest Coast formline design Reindeer Christmas ornament. They each made a Cedar leaf and then hung their ornaments on our Cedar Christmas Tree.



**January:** Our Family Literacy Day theme was "Emily Carr". To celebrate Emily Carr's love of the Pacific Northwest First Nations peoples, culture, and her passion for nature, the K - 7 students made canvas prints of tsa'pax, which means Red Cedar leaves. They also viewed the Kwak'wala words for the parts of the Cedar tree.



**February:** To support our school's Cedar theme, one of the many math night activities was for the students to weave Red and Yellow Cedar paper strip fish.

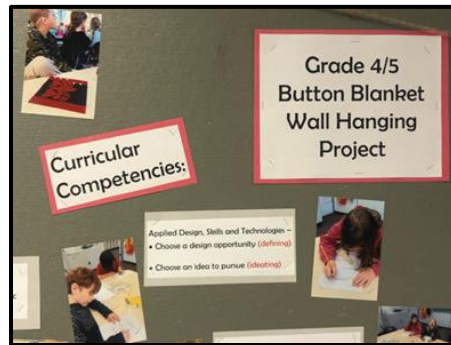


To celebrate Have a Heart Day this Valentine's Day, the K - 7 students made watercolor-woven heart flowers. These plant markers are displayed in our "Heart Garden".



## Eagle View Elementary School

As part of ADST (Applied Design, Skills and Technologies) learning, in addition to cultural teachings, the Grade 4 and 5 students have participated in a wall-hanging button blanket design project. An enduring understanding in ADST is that skills are developed through practice, effort, and action. Students began by identifying a design (crest) that was significant or interesting to them, then what tools and materials would be needed for their project. Students created a product (template) and spent careful time planning patterns and sewing buttons onto their designs. At the end of the project, students reflected on their process, identified challenges, summarized their learning and assessed the final product. This class project prepared students for the button blanket making work they are currently doing to prepare for our Spring celebration. Our school is busy building our treasure chest of regalia—we need to finish 32 blankets for our primary dancers!



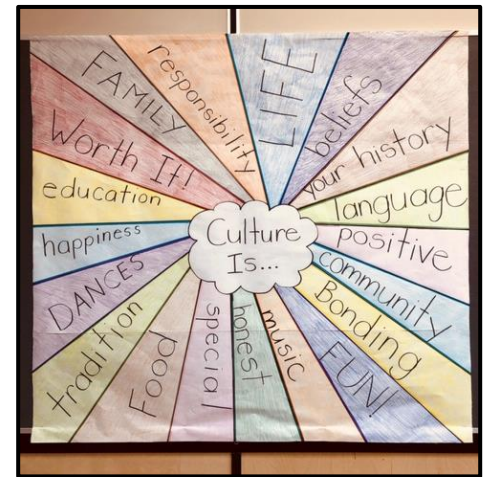
## Sunset Elementary School



Dzunu'kwa is alive and well and has been visiting Sunset Elementary. Mr. Mollinga's grade 4 class is using pictographs, puppets, readers' theatre, felt boards and relay story telling in order to make the stories of Dzunu'kwa and other legends come to life in their own voices. This is a much-needed activity after their novel study, "Fatty Legs", which explores the residential school experience of a young girl.

Our primary students are still preparing for their feast this spring. They are making rattles to use during the feast. They are learning how to draw Kwakwaka'wakw designs, including the eagle and the frog. Finally, NISS students are joining our little ones to teach them the Salmon dance and other fun dances.

Ms. McKinney, Sunset's Cultural Worker, has worked tirelessly on behalf of our school. She has students painting our dance screen. She has introduced the Moose Hide campaign and brought in herring roe for students to try. Ms. McKinney also created a presentation from her participation in the Missing and Murdered Women March, raising the awareness of their plight with our intermediate grades.



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## North Island Secondary School

Kwak'wala lessons are well under way for students at NISS. Many students have chosen to study the language during the Language Lab class. Ida Miller is supporting the students on their journey of learning more about their language and culture. The level of engagement is infectious. It is great to hear students speaking Kwak'wala around the school, not just in class.



*Pictured below is the Kwak'wala board on display in the hallway at SVJSS.  
Faerlyn Bush, FNEA  
Sea View Elementary, Jr. /Secondary School*

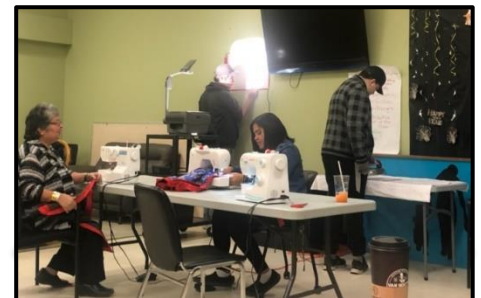
## Sea View Elementary School

Over the last few months, as the school's FNEA, I have completed a large bulletin board in the hallway at Sea View Elementary, Jr. /Secondary School (SVEJSS). This board depicts animals in a nature scene. The board was created to provide a visual aid to students. It teaches students many basic Kwak'wala words, including the numbers 1-10, colors and animals. This board displays Kwak'wala words along with English translations. The students, parents, and staff have enjoyed looking at and discussing this board with me. It brings color to the hallways and is a unique teaching tool. Academically, students have benefited from the additional educational support I was able to provide in the classrooms. They are more confident and are becoming more independent in their studies. Students are also beginning to take initiative to seek out extra help during lunch with me when needed. The current project for SVEJSS is to develop a garden on the school property. This garden will be designed to display a variety of plants that are native to the Pacific Northwest. The long-term goal for this garden is to have students explore the traditional uses of these plants.



## Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

This year our school, staff, and students have been observed by the SD85 Board, Trustees, and visitors for our unique atmosphere. Our family environment along with our linear academic calendar provides the flexibility and space to nurture our students in preparation for life. Our staff excel at going above and beyond for supporting our students and it is reflected in our philosophy for being the "Choice" school in School District 85. Eke Me-Xi currently has 64 registered students with the knowledge that if we had more space we would have more students. Our continued dedication to maintaining, creating, and improving our partnerships with organizations have really benefitted our students. Raising awareness and possibilities for our students as well. We are grateful for the unwavering support of those that make space for opportunities for Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre. A developing highlight is our students are designing our school's 2nd la'milas that will feature the "tree of life" that is inclusive of the 17 Kwakwaka'wakw Nations in the North Island.



### Kwak'wala Corner

Ka'yakan – I'm playing soccer  
Muxtu – Four leaved clover  
K'wa'kwam'ta – Hummingbird  
Wakes - Frog  
A'yapkas – Having fun



Am'at'lan – I am going to play  
Kalxat'si – Bird's nest  
K'waxsam – Tree house  
T'ams'i dan t'axan egas – I phoned my friend  
T'axwa - Snack



## Port Hardy Secondary School

Shared understandings 8 class is learning to make fry bread with Carol Humchitt as our Role Model. She works with groups of three students at a time while the rest either work on their class projects or enjoy watching Raven Tales the great flood.

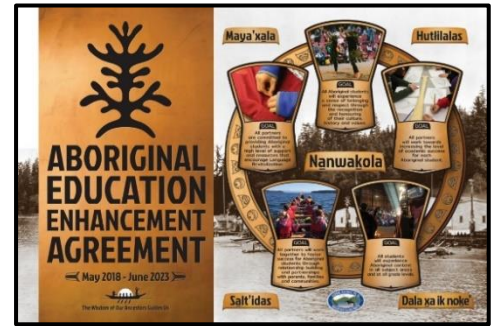


Above is Carol Humchitt frying bread as the students continue to prepare the dough Carol is frying away, stocking up a nice pile of fry bread for the class to enjoy



Art Based Healing at NISS with Vincent Dumoulin pictured above.

District Principal Irene Isaac and Alert Bay Elementary School Teacher Roberta Harris visit Solid Pathways. A program they have been selected to pilot in partnership with Simon Fraser University, Queensland University, Truth and Reconciliation Canada, SD85 and SD39. Solid Pathways is unique because it focuses on academic excellence and higher-order thinking skills and involves students at an early age. It also targets top-performing Indigenous students, as well as students in foster care or living independently, to ensure they are supported throughout their schooling. We will keep you posted on the pilot.



### 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 Kwak'wala 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.

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