

# Aboriginal Programs Newsletter

Art pictured donated by Vince Dumoulin



North Island Secondary 2020 Grads

To all of our SD85 Graduates; Lalagusto laxa tutu (Reach for the stars) and celebrate all of your successes! Continue to maya'xala (respect all things) and da'la xa ik noke' (carry a good heart) and there will be no limits to what you can accomplish!

## AJ Elliott Elementary

The cedar tree was celebrated at AJ Elliott on Family Literacy Day. The students visited five different cedar themed stations: forest exploration, cedar print making, song writing inspired by the works of Emily Carr, poetry writing, and painting. Cedar was also the second theme for our math inquiry project, which will continue next school year.



## Alert Bay Elementary

Aboriginal Content is woven into everything that we do at Alert Bay School. Art is hung on the walls, Culture and traditions are learned and practiced in classes, and lessons are made through the First Nations Principles of Learning and through an Aboriginal lens. Alert Bay School has a Cultural Program dating back several decades, and we continue to build on every year. The Cultural Program consists of learning the language, the dances and the songs of the Kwakwaka'wakw speaking people and surrounding areas. When the Covid-19 Pandemic hit our community, and our school site was shut down for in class learning, our Culture and Language program went online with songs, stories and language lessons housed on our school's website that students and families could access from home.



## Cheslakees Elementary

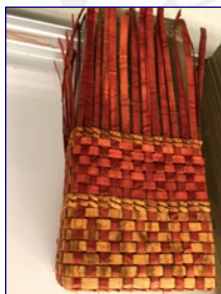
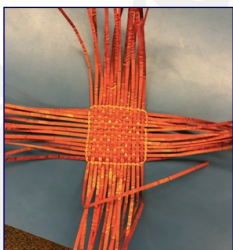
During the third term of school children learning all about the cedar tree. The learning packages sent home included many lessons and activities highlighting the importance of the cedar tree to First Nations people. Students learned about cedar stripping by watching a short video clip and talking about it with their teachers. With some help from their family students practiced weaving paper mats; they were amazing at the clothing and baskets that can be made with cedar. Students learned to identify a cedar tree in nature and then did cedar bow rubbings. Some students returned to school in June just in time for the emerging of our Hamumu. We talked about the butterfly family crest. Once all Hamumu had transformed students released them into the school garden for the summer.



### Eagle View Elementary

Since we have returned back to school, we have been focusing on what the importance of the red cedar tree is to the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwak'wala speaking) people, which is known as the "tree of life". We have been learning about the various uses of the different parts of the red cedar tree. As part of our learning, the staff and students started off by learning how to prepare the cedar bark to make bracelets and then moved on to basket weaving. To end off the year, we will be taking a field trip to hike into the forest and learn how to harvest cedar bark from a red cedar tree. We are definitely feeling everyone's absence during these strange times. I hope everyone has a fun, relaxing summer, all while staying safe!

Gilakas'la!  
Harold Nelson



### Fort Rupert Elementary

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fort Rupert Elementary School's cultural program was put on pause. Although our program was on pause, we were still busy planning for the future. We look forward to resuming our program in the upcoming school year and are excited to give everyone a sneak peak of what we have in mind.



### Sea View Elementary

We have been working on completing a plant unit for the Sea View students, due to Covid we weren't able to incorporate it into this school year but have every intention of working it in next year. I have detailed sheets of plants for the older students, teaching them about the traditional uses of plants in our area. I then simplified the pages to create colouring pages for the younger students, to give them some foundation I can build off as they grow.



### Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

The teachers and staff of Eke Me-Xi would like to extend a warm and sincere congratulations to Eke Me-Xi graduating students in achieving such a milestone during the "new normal". The commitment expressed by our seven graduates exemplifies character of the highest regard and requires acknowledgment and a show of gratitude to everyone that supported them on their road to completing this portion of their education path. What comes next is anyone's guess and Eke Me-Xi is committed as ever to the students, families, friends and communities that make us the "choice school" to attend.

We, the administration, teachers and staff at Eke Me-Xi would like to congratulate all of the Grads of 2020.

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself say's 'I'm possible'" - Audrey Hepburn



### North Island Secondary

NISS grads celebrate their accomplishments with parent and community organized events on June 13th with the school in a walking ceremony on June 18th. Here we see Cullen May in the car parade.





**Port Hardy Secondary**

The picture above shows the transformation of the PHSS totem pole, a joint project with the Kwakiutl Nation and the First Peoples' Cultural Council. After several trips out to the lands and log sorts this beautiful log surfaced and was dropped off at the Kwakiutl net loft yard for carvers Mervyn Child and Chief David Knox to transform. We had hoped that the carving would take place on site at PHSS, but due to Covid-19 and our move to remote learning, the carving had to take place off school grounds. We are hopeful that we can host a full celebration of the pole raising next spring.



**District Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Winners**

**Aboriginal Achievement Scholarships:**

- Annabelle Rak
- Keanu Charlie-Walkus
- Brennan Sawyer

**Aboriginal Citizenship Bursaries:**

- Ashley Cadwallader
- Brenna Sawyer
- Keith Dawson

**Mosaic Forestry Scholarship:**

- Daysha McKinney

**Thank You / Gilakas'la**

School District Aboriginal Programs would like to say Gilakas'la to Vancity (Alert Bay location) for their generous cash donation. The funds donated were used to purchase gift cards from shop-rite grocery store for families in need during the Covid-19 pandemic.



When Kiewit heard of the state of emergency declared in Alert Bay during the Covid-19 pandemic, they made a special delivery of hand sanitizer, masks and gloves. These were distributed to the Namgis First Nation, the Municipality of Alert Bay, North Island Secondary School, Alert Bay Elementary School, and local First Nations business Culture Shock. Aboriginal Programs would like to say Gilakas'la to Peter Kiewit for their generous donation to the students and community of Alert Bay.

Staff of Culture Shock pictured right.



Alert Bay Mayor Dennis Buchanan accepting donation on left.



'Namgis Chief Don Svanvik accepting donation pictured to the right.

**Kwak'wala**

Aboriginal Programs is committed to working with U'mista Cultural Centre and our community partners to provide our students with a high level of support and resources that encourage language revitalization. Currently, we are working with our elders and knowledge keepers to create kwak'wala language on-line resources. These resources include audio connected to kwak'wala books 1-12 and short themed based videos to be posted on our school district website for student, community and teacher use.



**Professional Development  
May 8th -  
Kwakwaka'wakw Infusion  
(ZOOM)**

We have to say well done Ada Vera and Andrea Cranmer for providing the first culture and language professional development for SD85 through zoom. There were 25 SD85 participants who will be receiving a follow up package for their schools in the fall. Using technology, we will continue to move forward with language revitalization with our elders and kwak'wala speakers.



### PHSS Totem Pole Project

We would like to say special Gilakas'la to Kwakiutl Band Council for taking this project on alongside Port Hardy Secondary School and The First Peoples Cultural Council. We would also like to acknowledge the support and involvement of two of our local Kwakiutl artists Chief David Mungo Knox and Mervin Child, who have shared their expertise and time from the start of this project. We all look forward to seeing this momentous event unfold over the next school year.



### Regala Donation

On behalf of SD85 Gilakas'la Diane (Honey) Alfred for the beautiful donation of cedar head pieces. They will definitely go to good use in our cultural programming.



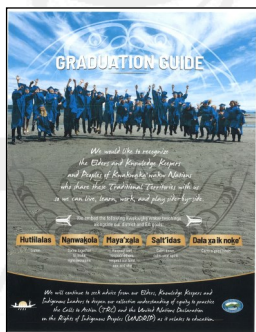
### MAP – Mentor Apprentice Program

We would like to congratulate SD85 language apprentices Ida Miller, Ross Hunt, Irene Isaac, and their mentors Eva Dick, Vera Newman, and Mable Knox for completing their first 300 hours of the kwak'wala language Mentor Apprentice Program (MAP).



### Aboriginal Programs Graduation Guide

The purpose of the graduation guide is to support students on the path to graduation with purpose, dignity and options. This will be handed out in the new school year or you can visit our SD85 website for a sneak peek later this month!



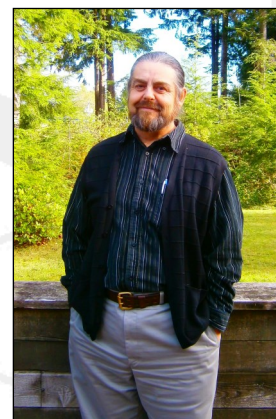
### Traditional Stories in the Classroom

In the new school year our department will be sharing ideas on how we can include our traditional stories in the classroom. Please be in touch with Aboriginal Programs if you would like to know more.



### Retirement Announcement

On behalf of Aboriginal Programs SD85 we would like wish Jim Jones a happy retirement. Gilakas'la! for your commitment and continued support to our students, families, and the community. We are all going to miss you!



### 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.

Port Hardy Secondary 2020 Grads pictured right and below



**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

