



Xaayda kil uu Xaayda Gwaay.yaay sda iijii, xaayda kil t’alang gyaaging gyin GiiGanxan.nuu Xaayda Gwaay.yaay ad t’alangs sding gang ga.

The Haida language comes from Haida Gwaii. When we speak Haida we become one with Haida Gwaii¹

FEEDING FUTURES - SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS FUND

The Ministry of Education and Child Care recently [announced](#) a multi-year, \$214 million fund to increase food security for students. This new funding is part of the government’s broader Feeding Futures School Food Programs Framework, which is a commitment to ensure students are properly fed for learning in order to enhance positive academic and healthy outcomes. Feeding Futures School Food Programs (FFSFP) funding addresses the top two barriers identified by schools in the province: sustainable and consistent food funding, and human resources.



Haida Gwaii School District will receive \$350,000 for the 2023 – 24 school year, with similar amounts anticipated for subsequent years.

MASSET SCHOOLS PROJECT UPDATE

The [April 4, 2023](#) update on the Masset Schools Project has just been released. Parents are encouraged to visit the [SD50 Masset Schools Project page](#) to read the monthly updates, look at building drawings and read through minutes from previous Masset School meetings.



A recent review of the construction timeline has resulted in SD 50 delaying the transition of K – 7 students to the new school until either the Winter or Spring break of the 2023 – 24 school year.

SD 50’S DISTRICT WEBSITE



As we move towards making British Columbia more accessible and inclusive, per [B.C.’s Accessibility Plan](#), we are pleased to share that the SD50 website is now WCAG 2.1 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) compliant. When accessing our website users will see an accessibility icon in the lower left corner that, when clicked, provides a variety of adaptations to accommodate physical and hidden disabilities.

Thank you to our I.T. department for this important work!

¹ That Which Makes Us Haida – The Haida Language 2011



EMBRACE UNIQUE CULTURE & TERRITORY

ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10 - 12

Haaw'aa to Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay English teacher **Naveed Ali** for contributing the following:

*On March 10, 2023, I had the absolute pleasure of learning alongside passionate and caring educators from other Northwestern Districts in the province at the FNEC English First Peoples 10-12 North West Regional Workshop upon the traditional and unceded territory of the Tsimshian (or Ts'msyen) peoples. The workshop occurred at the Northwest Trades and Employment Center in Terrace and was led by renown and knowledgeable educator **Jo Chrona**, who is a member of the Kitsumkalum First Nation in B.C. At the workshop, educators were provided with invaluable information and resources regarding the appropriate and respectful practices required to teach the EFP 10 - 12 Curriculum whilst maintaining the importance of maintaining the 9th Professional Standard as BC Educators. Information shared at this learning workshop also included pertinent knowledge regarding the Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement and the importance in upholding equitable and anti-racist pedagogies in the navigation of and learning within the courses that meet the requirement. Attendees were also involved within in-depth and insightful Q & A sessions with Jo that occurred throughout the workshop, which resolved many deep-seated queries brought forward by the dedicated folks present in the room. It was truly a day steeped in deepened learning and professional growth which I am grateful to have had the privilege to bear witness to and participate in. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Jo Chrona, the Ts'msyen peoples for hosting me on their traditional and unceded territories, the First Nations Education Steering Committee and to SD50 for this life-changing learning experience. From the bottom of my heart, Haaw'aa!*



SALMONIDS AND SCOTTISH TRADITIONS AT PCES



Students at Port Clements welcomed **Terry-Lynn Wood**, Hecate Strait Streamkeepers Education Coordinator, who helped students understand the importance of salmonids. Students worked on a visual art project that represented the life cycle of salmon.



Past teacher, past principal and now SD 50 substitute teacher, **Elizabeth Condrotte**, spent some time with PCES students introducing Scottish traditions, bagpipes and the similarities and differences between Haida culture and music traditions.



SD 50 EQUITY SCAN – IMPORTANT LEARNING

In early April, **Joanne Yovanovich** and **Janine Wilson** represented SD 50 at a meeting of northern school districts looking at the [Equity Scan](#) process. Hawaa to Joanne and Janine for contributing the following.



We had the pleasure of attending the Northern BC Equity Regional Session in Smithers facilitated by Joe Heslip, the Equity Project lead from the Ministry of Education and Child Care. We were one of six northern school districts participating.

A common point shared was ensuring and enhancing Indigenous Ancestral Knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing in our curriculum, our buildings, our learning environments, our staff and our district plans. The school environment needs to feel like an extension of the community as our students are a part of the community. Students experience higher levels of achievement when they are personally known by name, and feel safe in their learning environment when they see their culture reflected and normalized in the day-to-day school experience.

Through discussion and reflection, we were reminded of the work of our predecessors and all they had left behind to assist in our education path. Our sacred places in the forests and the oceans, and our practicing of ceremonies are things that guide our work.

Similar to ourselves, other school districts, while sharing their equity work, shared how they had adapted and changed the Equity Template to meet the context of their school district and the communities they serve.

It was a powerful day of learning and we look forward to continuing the work using varied strategies and programs that are relevant to our communities.



GOOD MORNING TAHAYGHEN



Tahayghen staff and students begin every day with a morning circle. Just after the first bell of the day, everyone sits in a large circle in the library commons area. The circle begins with Haida drumming and singing, with each grade group having the honour of being responsible for the drumming and singing on each consecutive day, but no one is obligated to participate. Sometimes our older students will join the younger students to help lead the drumming and singing, and then on Thursdays, which is the grade 6/7 day, the entire school looks forward to a very well-practiced and excellent performance by our oldest students. On Fridays principal **Behn**

Cochrane and bus driver **Jim**

Roberts, have recently been performing an acoustic guitar song. Last Friday everyone enjoyed 'Stand By Me.'

After the performances, students and staff are introduced to a Xaada Kil word of the day with its sign language interpretation. Mr. Cochrane then makes the announcements which include acknowledgements, reminders, recess supervision reminders, hot lunch reminders, and then a chance for other adults or students to make any further announcements or for students to ask questions. The circle is wrapped up with Mr. Cochrane sharing two or three jokes, and then students are dismissed to their classrooms. What a great 15 – 20 minutes to begin everyone's day!



WORKING TOGETHER



HAW'AA THEA!

Thea Borserio, SD 50's contracted Occupational Therapist, and also the daughter of two former SD 50 teachers, recently visited Haida Gwaii for her second visit of the school year. Thea has been working with our district on a contract basis for several years and provides occupational therapy expertise for students. In addition to supporting students at schools during this latest visit, we were able to use Thea's expertise during a visit to Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay to view and discuss accessibility recommendations within the K – 12 project.

GTN ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLASS PARTNERS WITH CARLETON UNIVERSITY



Seven students from Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay along with Entrepreneurship teacher **Christine Cunningham**, will be travelling to Ottawa on April 21-26th in order to attend Carleton University's industrial design grad show. GTN and Carleton have been working collaboratively on design projects, business and entrepreneurship throughout the year and we have been invited to be a part of their final presentation. While in the Nation's Capital, students will have an opportunity to attend the grad show, take a university tour, attend guided tours of the Museum of History and Art and attend innovation seminars at the Carleton School of Business.

Carleton Graduate students were at Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay in February working with students. (see photo)

NEW BREAKERS UNIFORMS COMING



The Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay Parent Advisory Council has recently been successful with a grant application that will help GKN student athletes be outfitted in new uniforms. Although the school has been slowly working on fundraising for uniforms since the school's official name changed, the work of the PAC will help immensely.

Specifically, the goal is to obtain home and away reversible uniforms specific to each sport. Although more details will be announced soon, we would like to extend our gratitude to **Jody Bisset**, **Sean Muise** and the entire GKN PAC for their advocacy and work in celebrating our athletes.

HAW'AA JIM HART



Master Haida carver, **Jim Hart**, is helping to teach carving to Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay students through a partnership between the school and [Haida Children & Family Services Society](#). Given the lack of adequate covered space for Jim and the students to work with, this prototype log roller is being used!





MASSET DAYCARE ANNOUNCEMENT

Haida Gwaii School District is pleased to announce that the Ministry of Education and Childcare has approved our recent application for a 24-space daycare to be built onto our new K – 12 school in

Masset. This \$2.78 million project will help provide much-needed daycare spaces to Masset and Old Massett communities.

We look forward to sharing further details about the construction and possible timelines in the coming months, as we have just learned of the approval.



STUDENT WELL BEING

GIDGALANG KUUYAS NAAY – TRAVEL CLUB



GKN’s Student Travel Club, organized and run by staff members **Megan Romas, Jenna Perry and Robert Vogstad** went to Rexton, New Brunswick right after Spring break. Students visited a Sugar Shack, had a cold dip in the Atlantic, and gained perspective about living on the other side

of the continent, and what they have at home for which they can be grateful. Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay hosts students from Rexton in May, and we look forward to sharing what is unique about Haida Gwaii.



ENGAGE SPORTS NORTH VISITS HAIDA GWAI

[Engage Sports North](#) recently visited Haida Gwaii schools to engage our students in wheelchair sports. Engage Sports North is focused on inclusion and equity in physical literacy and sport, and we thank **Robert Stiles** for the excellent workshops.



GIDGALANG KUUYAS NAAY BASKETBALL ZONE CHAMPIONS

Boys' Basketball had a great season! As Zone champs, the GKN team returned from Provincials with a 4-win, 1-loss record. The team's performance has them currently ranked #9 provincially. As a very small school, we are very proud of this performance from our student-athletes. We hope the lesson learned is that great things can be achieved with teamwork, hard work, and determination. Haawa to **Desi Collinson, Colin Greenough, Duane Alsop** and a slew of volunteers for their support.

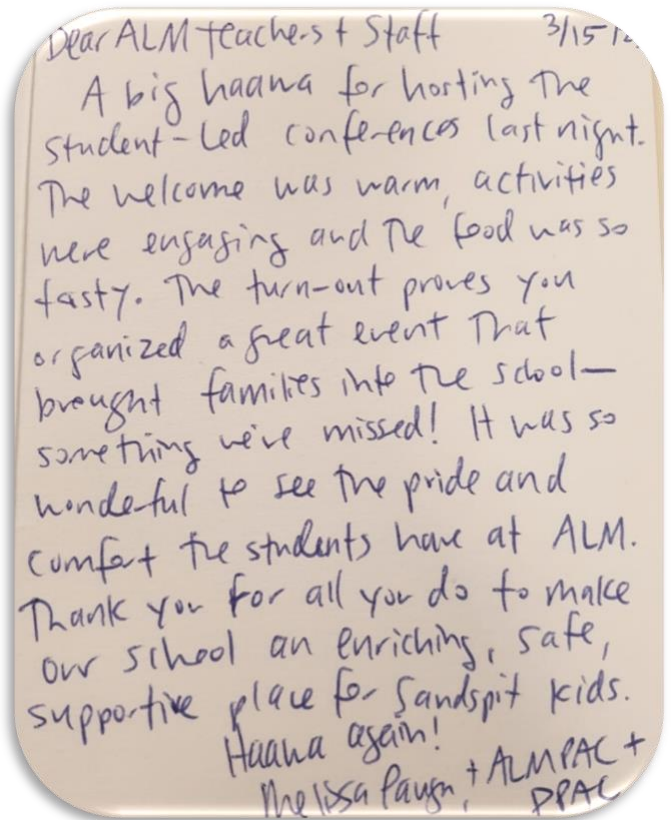


STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES



Many of our schools hosted student-led conferences in March and April. Student-led conferences allow students to take the lead in sharing their learning to date using examples of their work. These conferences are an excellent opportunity for parents and guardians to hear directly from students about their individual work, their classroom, and their school community.

Here is a note from the Agnes L. Mathers PAC thanking ALM staff for hosting the student-led conferences at their school.



SK'AADGAA NAAY GREEN THUMBS



The Sk'aadgaa Naay green house is a hub of activity as soil and gardening supplies have arrived!