



Gina 'waadluxan gud ad kwaagid | Ginn 'wáadluwan gud .ahl kwáagildang

Everything Depends on Everything Else



2023 – 2026 CALENDAR CONSULTATION

Thank you to parents and staff that have provided initial feedback on our proposed calendars for the next 3 school years. Some of our dates are defined by collective agreements while we have made some changes to other dates based on feedback. With the addition of the newly announced Sept. 30 statutory holiday recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we have made some changes to ensure that we meet the required instructional hours.

Please have a look at the proposed calendars [HERE](#) and send feedback to: SD50CalendarFeedback@sd50.bc.ca.

MASSET SCHOOLS PROJECT UPDATE

The [February 7, 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.



STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH SD50

School district No.50 is first implementing a new notification system for transportation alerts to improve communication with parents and guardians. The system will be used to send real-time updates regarding transportation schedules, delays, cancellations, and other important information related to student transportation.

Additionally, the new notification system will not only be limited to transportation updates but will also provide notifications from the schools and the district office. This includes updates on school events, important announcements, employment opportunities, and other relevant information. By subscribing to the notifications, parents and guardians will have access to a wide range of information that will keep them informed about their child's education. To sign up to receive notifications, please [click here](#).



JOIN THE SD50 TEAM

Like many organizations both on Haida Gwaii and across British Columbia, we are experiencing a challenge in recruiting people to various positions that we have posted. If you would like to learn more about potential employment opportunities with the school district, please email hr@sd50.bc.ca.



EMBRACE UNIQUE CULTURE & TERRITORY

DRUM MAKING AT GIDGALANG KUUYAS NAAY

Vernon Williams and **Cody Wilson** came by to visit **Robert Vogstad** and some of our classes for drum making workshops. The work is progressing, and we expect to get some fine drums from it. **Haawa Vernon and Cody!**

GROWING INNOVATIONS – LANGUAGE NEST

Thank you to **Emmy O’Gorman** and **Leighann Rodger** who successfully applied to participate in a [Growing Innovation](#) project this school year.

This year’s project sees students from Agnes L. Mathers travel to Skidegate to attend the Language Nest. Here are students from Emmy’s class working with elders **Herb Jones** and **Melody Gravelle**, practicing Haida language.



EARLY LEARNING FORUM – FEB. 17TH

Thank you to **Janine Wilson** and **Joanne Yovanovich** for their hard work in helping to organize this year’s Early Learning Forum occurring on Feb. 17th. We want to thank our Early Learning Partners:

- **Haley Fields**, Program Coordinator, Haida Gwaii Child Care Resource & Referral
- **Jenna Inglis**, Family & Resource Consultant, Haida Gwaii Child Care Resource & Referral
- **Tessa Martens**, Northern Health, Supported Child Development Consultant

Participants will begin their day listening to **David Loyst**, a Speech and Language Pathologist and Autism Consultant for over 30 years. He has spent over 20 years applying his knowledge and expertise in his own parenting journey. He is a senior team member of The Work of Gola Golub as well as a Co-Director of The Wishing Star Foundation. Mr Loyst will share his findings in the study of developmental attachment parenting and how this applies to our educational environments.



Participants will then have the opportunity to participate in the following virtual workshops:

- Little Clay Dishes with **Amber Faktor**
- Beading with **Katrina Husband**
- Autism and Conscious Care with **David Loyst**
- Creating Connection and Alignment with **Wendy Watts**
- Compassionate Systems with **Joanne Schroeder and Pippa Rowcliffe**



WORKING TOGETHER

DISTRICT PLANNING DAY – FEB. 3RD

We sent our condolences to Dr. Evan Adams who was unable to join us as a guest speaker on our Ministry Day due to a death in his family. However, we were fortunate that two good friends and colleagues, **Leona Prince**, best-selling author and senior educational leader, and **Brad Baker**, the Associate Superintendent of Indigenous Education for the Ministry of Education & Child Care were able to provide keynotes for us. Thank you to each of our school principals for helping to prepare for this day and for spending the afternoon guiding their staff through school planning for the coming school year.

WELCOME IAN, TARA, ADEANA, NADJA & MARJORIE – LETTER OF PERMISSION TEACHERS

This year, SD50 has five '[Letter of Permission](#)' teachers. A letter of permission is a special teaching permit that allows someone to teach without a full teaching qualification.

Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay strives to ensure that they offer elective courses that are interesting and engaging for students. **Chef Marjorie Fregin** has been teaching our Food Studies electives this year and has been sharing her incredible expertise with students of all grades. Under Marjorie's guidance, students help with a daily lunch at the school and learn solid fundamentals in the kitchen.

We are also very fortunate to have **Ian McLean** teaching on a letter of permission in our wood shop this year. Ian is a joiner, cabinet maker and heritage carpenter by trade and is well known in Masset for exceptional work. Ian also has an extensive background in working with youth and has combined these two skills to make for some exceptional wood shop classes. Students take great care and precision in their projects and learn joinery and woodworking techniques to make beautiful objects out of local woods. Some of our grade 8's are finishing up their first small tables which are exquisitely constructed and aesthetically beautiful. We are lucky and thankful to have both Marjorie and Ian as part of the GTN staff team this year.

Tara Sjolund has been a support staff employee with SD50 since 2007 and has taken on various roles throughout the years. She has recently agreed to support our Xaad Kil program at Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay while our teacher is on leave. Tara brings a strong vocabulary base and the ability use Xaad Kil and Xaayda Kil. She also carries a great deal of knowledge of Haida family trees, Clans and belonging, harvesting and processing, protocols and history.

Tahayghen Elementary welcomes the other remaining LOP teachers to SD50. **Nadja Smith-Hanson** is currently working on a Bachelor of Education, Yukon Native Teacher Education Program at Yukon University. We are excited to welcome her back to Haida Gwaii as part of the staff at Tahayghen starting Feb. 21st. Nadja spent some time on Haida Gwaii studying with the Haida Gwaii Institute where she learnt about ecology, ethnobotany, and community relations. She enjoys hiking, running, and spending time by the ocean in her spare time. These hobbies keep her fit and energized for the classroom, especially PE!

We also welcome former school trustee, **Adeana Young**, who has stepped into the part-time position of Haida Language and Culture teacher at Tahayghen Elementary. This assignment is in addition to her role as resource coordinator at the Xaad Kil Nee office in Old Massett. Adeana has successfully taught Xaad Kil before at Xaad Kil Nee in partnership with Simon Fraser University. Adeana also starred in the award winning 2018 film, [Edge of the Knife](#).



STUDENT WELL BEING



GIDGALANG KUUYAS NAAY – GO BREAKERS!

After winning the Mountain Invitational Tournament, the GKN boys' basketball team is travelling to their zone tournament Friday the 17th of February. Our girl's basketball team came in 5th at their zone tournament. Best wishes to the GKN wrestling team who are off to the Provincial Tournament shortly.

AGNES L. MATHERS HOSTS SK'AADGAA NAAY FOR BASKETBALL PLAY DAY

January 27th saw Sk'aadgaa Naay grade 4 – 7 athletes travelled to ALM for a day of basketball. This was a great day with everyone having a lot of fun!

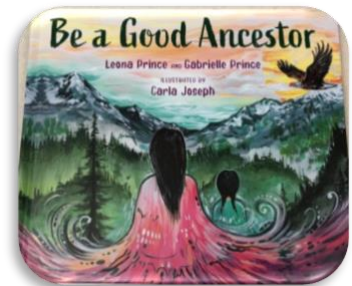


ALDER READING GALA

Hawaa to District Principal **Joanne Yovanovich** for organizing the 2023 Alder Reading Gala held on January 26th. Although we had hoped to gather participating students at Port Clements Elementary, the recent challenges with seasonal colds forced us to make this a virtual event.

Thank you to educators **Jenny Kellar** (Tahayghen), **Kelsey Pelton** (Sk'aadgaa Naay), **Janet Gray** (Agnes L. Mathers), and **Lisa Waring** (Port Clements) who helped support students in sharing the very creative and engaging presentations. We look forward to next years' Gala!

Our students were fortunate to hear author **Leona Prince** read from her recently published best seller, Be a Good Ancestor. Leona shared insights into successfully publishing a book and also her motivation behind sharing the message of being a good human!



GUDANGAAY TLAATS'GAA NAAY – GO THUNDER!

We are very proud of our junior boys' basketball team and coaches **Cal Westbrook** and **Anthony Willmot**, who won the Northwest Zone Championship recently. In their championship picture it's hard to believe how grown up these young men are. They defeated some teams that were older, taller, and more experienced because in Cal's words, "We're ballers."

We're also very proud that we have a number of wrestlers who have qualified for the provincial championship happening later this month.

