

K'aadsgidaay K'apxunang / K'aadsgidaay Xapxunang

Time or days going by fast!¹

Hala kaat'ii / Kilslaay / Hello

Welcome to SGaahlan K'al Kung – Yellow Cedar Bark Month – JUNE

Cultures across the world have expressions for how quickly time passes and the Haida are no different and I am so thankful for my copy of the Xaayda Kil Glossary which helps me immensely in recognizing the richness of the Haida dialects. I apologize that I am unable to translate the Xaayda Kil phrases I find in the Glossary into Xaad Kil.

With my good friend **Mitch Stewart** choosing to focus on his healing, I will continue to support our Board of Education and the Haida Gwaii School District as an Interim Superintendent into the 2023 – 24 school year. May and June have been such busy months in our schools and I want to thank all of our staff, from bus drivers to administrative assistants to custodians and principals for collectively working together to create rich opportunities for our students.

Sharing photographs and the rich stories from our schools monthly has been a joy, and even though this final report is shorter than others this year, you only have to step into a school to get a sense of all that is happening. Although living and working in rural and remote communities can be challenging, those challenges are often overshadowed by the opportunities that these unique places provide and that is exactly what I have witnessed in Haida Gwaii.

I thank our Board of Education for their hard work and diligence in drafting, sharing and finalizing a strategic vision for the School District which has led to a variety of exciting strategic objectives for the coming school year. Although we have a variety of strategic objectives in each of our goal areas, a few that are worth highlighting include:

- Emerging partnership with BC Foundry to implement the PreVenture program with all of our grade 8 students in the coming school year.
- Supporting organizers of the Unite 'Student Leadership' conference to be held in Masset in the fall of 2023. We will hopefully use our friends at the McCreary Centre to help kickstart our 'student voice' goals' at this conference.
- Supporting our educators in creating a Haida Gwaii Literacy Framework which will include district literacy data collection and analysis.

Wishing our students, families and staff a safe, restful summer! And to those on our team that get much of their work done in July and August, thank you for all you do to have us return to world-class schools in September.

Respectfully,

Manu Madhok

Interim Superintendent



[@SCHOOLDISTRICTNO.50\(HAIDA Gwaii\)](https://www.facebook.com/SCHOOLDISTRICTNO.50(HAIDA-GWAII))



¹ HlGaagildda Xaayda Kil K'aalang – SHIP Xaayda Kil Glossary - 2021



EMBRACE UNIQUE CULTURE & TERRITORY

TAHAYGHEN CELEBRATES UNIQUENESS OF HAIDA GWAI

Ms. Nadja took grade 6 and 7 students from Tahayghen to a youth symposium, held at the Haida Heritage Centre in Skidegate, on renewable energy. She and her class also recently returned from a 3-day trip to Limestone Island where her students learned about the biodiversity of the area. **Ms. Kellar** recently returned from Mount Moresby Adventure Camp and **Ms. Lia** recently took her class for a field day at Taaw Hill and North Beach. Our Indigenous Resource worker, **Jeffrey Samuels**, participated in many of these trips and provided amazing Indigenous leadership and cultural sharing. Ms. Kellar and Ms. Nadja took their classes on seaweed gathering field trips and Ms. Kellar also took her students to gather and process cedar bark.



TRADITIONAL FOOD PREPARATIONS – GUDANGAAY TLAATS'GAA NAAY

Thank you to our Haida Language and Culture teacher, **Ms. Sjolund**, for organizing a variety of field trips this month, including preparing nuu (octopus) and sGiw (seaweed).





WORKING TOGETHER

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

Thank you to all our school SOGI leads for organizing activities supporting SOGI this month. All of our school will also be receiving new SOGI resources as per SD 50 policy on sexual orientation – D.7. Thank you to our **SOGI**



school leads and **Leighann Rodger** for helping to organize.

Across our schools:

- At Tahayghen, **Ms. Nadja** and **Cora Camire** have been leading Tahayghen's SOGI club and have been leading the way in helping support Masset’s Pride Parade on June 16.
- At Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay, students helped principal Deavlan Bradley with [raising the Pride flag](#).

SK’AADGAA NAAY ELEMENTARY HOST TRACK & FIELD DAY

Hawaa to **Vanessa Wahl** for helping to organize an excellent Track & Field day on June 8th. Thank you to all schools, including Chief Matthews and Living and Learning Schools for joining us for this event.





STUDENT WELL BEING

JUNE AT TAHAYGHEN

Tahayghen students have been busy working on and completing Science Fair projects for a school Science Fair in mid-June. Our students look forward to the return of a district Science Fair in the coming school year.



Tahayghen students were also able to participate in a cultural sharing afternoon with our friends from Hawaii in which traditional song, dance, and storytelling were shared and reciprocated from the Hawaiian guests and Tahayghen students.

We continue to provide breakfast, healthy snacks, and hot lunches almost every day and students continue to learn about and participate in helping make and serve these meals.

