



Sing.Gaay 'laa / Singaay 'lása

Welcome to K'aawdaŋ **Kuŋg**¹ (*Herring Roe on Kelp month*) | 'Wiid Gyaas² (*Salmonberry Bird Month*)

Hoping that our students and families had a great Spring Break. We return to longer days and the promise of Spring, and from experience, we know that these final few months of this school year will fly by. With no Board meeting in March, we didn't have an opportunity to congratulate the **Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay Basketball Team**, who captured our hearts with their outstanding performance at this year's Provincial Basketball Tournament. Congratulations to the coaches and athletes, as your gritty and determined play made us all proud!

This is a historic moment on Haida Gwaii with the signing of the '[Gaayhlxid / Gihlagalgang "Rising Tide" Haida Title Lands Agreement](#)'. This is a unique time for educators on Haida Gwaii to support our students in ensuring an understanding of this historic signing and what it means for Haida Gwaii.

There will be much excitement in our schools as with the coming of Spring there will be a greater focus on both being outdoors and the many field trips that happen at this time of year. Please stay connected to your school community, as there will be continual information on field trips, athletic events, and adventures to K'aayxada Adventure Camp in the coming months.

We have been practicing ways to Honour Haida Language across our schools and recently **Jaskwaan Bedard**, our Haida Language & Culture Curriculum Implementation Teacher, shared the ninth of ten ways to honour the language, specifically to use Haida Place names for locations across Haida Gwaii. Our community names in Haida are:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ○ HI Gaagildaa 'Llnagaay | <i>Skidegate</i> |
| ○ Daajing Giids | <i>Daajing Giids</i> |
| ○ K'il Kun | <i>Sandspit</i> |
| ○ 'Wáan Kun\Gamadiis | <i>Port Clements</i> |
| ○ Gaw Tlagée | <i>Masset and surrounding areas</i> |

A map with pronunciations can be found [HERE](#) on our website. Take a moment over supper to practice these with your child(ren).

Enjoy April!

Manu - Interim Superintendent

¹ Xaayda kil

² Xaad kil

EMBRACING UNIQUE CULTURE AND TERRITORY

2023 – 24 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- *Strengthen community connections as per Equity Scan.*
- *Support place-based learning in schools.*
- *Principals working with Dr. Sara Davidson*
- *Annual report to the Haida Education Council on all SD 50 Haida Language and Culture initiatives.*
- *Extension of Human Rights Special Hiring program to increase number of Indigenous leaders and role models in our system.*

HAAWAA / HÁW'AA MCCREARY FRIENDS

We are thankful to our colleagues (**Annie, Evelyn, Maya and Karen**) at the McReary Center for coming to Haida Gwaii the week of April 8th to work with high school students from both Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay and Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay to create the first Haida Gwaii Adolescent Health Survey.

Our students created a survey on various health themes and administered it to 164 of our grade 7 – 12 students. They then used that data to create a presentation summarizing their work, which contained seven recommendations for the School District to consider.

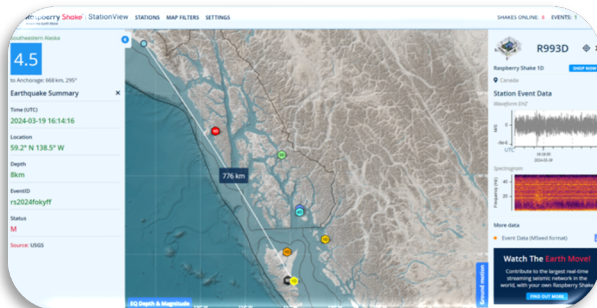
These students will present to the Board at the April 16th meeting and to principals on April 17th.

It was a powerful experience to hear our students so articulately share data and recommendations specific to adolescent health. Hawaa/haw'aa to **Max, Makayla, Leslie** of Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay and to **Lief, Riley, Daris, Arilyn, and River** of Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay for your hard work and leadership. Thank you also to **Robert Vogstad** who drove students to and from Port Clements while sharing his knowledge of Haida Gwaii with our students and guests.



SEISMOGRAPHS IN SCHOOLS

Hawaa to SD50's IT Department for working alongside Natural Resources Canada to install Seismometers in a few of our schools. Agnes L. Mathers Elementary was one of these schools, and the staff and students had a great day with the scientists who installed the seismometer. We showed them a local fossil bed near the school and then enjoyed their presentation back at the school. The seismometer picked up a 4.5 magnitude originating from southern Alaska over the Spring Break.



WORKING TOGETHER

2023 – 24 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- *Strengthening Relationships*
- *Supporting Parent Learning with SD 50 DPAC*
- *Strengthen SD 50 Crisis Response Processes*
- *Support Student Voice*
- *Support a PAC at Each of Our Schools*
- *Adhere to Accessible BC Act*
- *Focus on Recruitment & Retention*

STUDENT COUNCIL AT AGNES L. MATHERS (Shared By Behn Cochran)

ALM students elected a student council before Spring Break. Grade 7 student **Parker Braman** was elected as President and grade 3 student **Karam Hamoudda** was elected as Vice President.

HAIDA DANCE CLASS AT GIDGALANG KUUYAS NAAY! (Shared By Deavlan Bardley)

In semester 2 we have started a small Haida dance program. It is coded as Dance Foundations, an existing Ministry course, which allows participating students to obtain a grade 11 credit. **Kristy Alsop** is teaching, with some support from **Jenny Parser** as we proceed with getting a letter of permission in place for Kristy.

The class is focused on Haida dance and song and its place in politics, culture and traditional economy. There are six students enrolled in this pilot program, and they are working toward preparing several songs and dances to honour Elders from SHIP at a celebration we are hosting on May 4th.

WELCOME STUDENT TEACHERS

We are pleased to welcome the following UBC student teachers to Haida Gwaii the Spring and hope that some of them may consider staying for awhile!

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Nick Henderson | Trades/Shop Class | Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay Secondary |
| • Jayde Gabert | Grades 4-5 | Sk'aadgaa Naay Elementary |
| • Anna Rumaner | Grades 4-7 | Agnes L. Mathers Elementary |

Thank you also to host teachers **Stephen Querenjung**, **Julia Maestrello**, and **Behn Cochran**.

WELCOME CARLETON UNIVERSITY (Shared By Cal Westbrook)

Carleton University is currently visiting Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Secondary. This is the continuation of an ongoing partnership that has seen Carleton students visit Haida Gwaii the past three years and GTN students visit Ottawa in 2023. The partnership is based on relationships with their men's and women's basketball teams (Collective 21 national championships in the last two decades) and the School of Business. We are happy to welcome **Rob Smart** (Professor in School of Business and Assistant Mens's Basketball Coach), and 6 students (3 Varsity Athletes and 3 Business Students) who are working with our school on cultural exchange frameworks with other indigenous communities, 3D printing, gardening technologies, and basketball!

STUDENT WELL-BEING

2023 – 24 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- *Development of SD 50 Literacy Framework*
- *Use Fountas & Pinnell Assessment to gather district literacy data for all grade 2 students*
- *Support Student Mental Health*
- *Support Numeracy Staff Development*
- *Sustain & Expand Early Learning / Childcare*
- *Ensure Safe, Welcoming and Inclusive Schools*
- *Technology supported learning*
- *Focus on Successful K-12 Project in Masset*

UNIVERSITY TOUR (Shared By Deavlan Wood)

Students from Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay leave to visit universities in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. Hawaa to Gwaii Trust who helps to fund these excellent opportunities for our students.

PRESCHOOL FAIRS COMING UP (Shared By Leighann Rodger)

In partnership with the Skidegate Health Centre, we are hosting a three and five-year-old fair in Skidegate on May 31. In partnership with the Family Connection Centre, a similar fair will be hosted in Masset on June 5.

We have invited various community groups to attend in order to share valuable resources with parents and caregivers. At this point, we are in the initial planning stages and will confirm the final details in the next few weeks.

'Pirates' Coming to Sk'aadgaay Naay on April 26th (Shared By Will Bedard & Josina Davis)

Sk'aadgaay Naay Elementary will present its 4th annual musical, Pirates, on Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m. Hawaa to **Josina Davis**, who sponsors our school's Drama Club. The students are creating a pirate ship and various props for the production. Hawaa, Josina, for creating this unique theatre experience for our students.



APRIL 2024 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE UPDATES

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

Haida Gwaii School District is one of several northern school districts collaborating on Accessibility requirements and we would like to thank Elisa Schatz for being our local representative on this committee. We did not receive any public feedback from the accessibility related questions that were posted to our website.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

This year's [PreVenture](#) rollout for every grade 8 student in Haida Gwaii is nearly complete at both of our high schools. Once completed, the students will be asked for their feedback, and we will also get feedback from our teacher facilitators, which we hope to share at the May or June Board meeting. We are committed to using PreVenture for each of our grade 8 students in the coming school years as this is a multiyear commitment to help address and support our students with mental health and substance use supports.

Planning has started for Haida Gwaii School District to work with **Erika Cheng** of [Beyond the Cycle of Trauma Institute](#) to support system-wide learning related to trauma-informed pedagogy. Erika will first present at our District Day on September 23rd.

NUMERACY UPDATE

Hawaa to Nechako Lakes School District for agreeing to let us utilize math-helping teacher **Roberta Toth**. Roberta has been working with a group of Haida Gwaii teachers to support numeracy while also introducing **Peter Lilljedahl's** Thinking Classrooms.

Our collaboration with Roberta has us thinking deeply about a district numeracy assessment, and we are hopeful that we will be able to conduct a small school and/or classroom-level numeracy assessment in the coming year.