



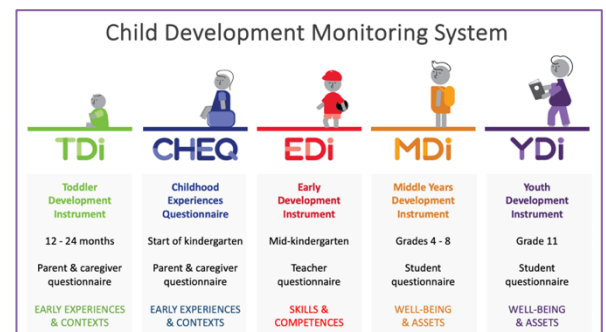
Welcome to Taada Kung¹ (Cold Month) | Kúng Gyáangáas² (Standing Up Month)

A very happy New Year to our students, families and staff!

December whizzed by in an instant, given the flurry of activities and events that were happening in our schools. Every story or photo of an event that was shared with me reminded me of the lasting memories created for students and their families through these special occasions. I know from personal experience that the energy and significant work required for December's holiday activities is in addition to the day-to-day expectations for school-based staff. **Haawaa/Háw'aa to all our teachers, support staff, principals and caregivers who helped to organize the concerts, talent shows, activity nights, meals, etc., that occurred at schools across Haida Gwaii in December.** I understand that Mr Hallé's lip sync performance at Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay has inspired an upcoming lip sync challenge on January 19th!

I think that we were all collectively ready for the Winter Break and although returning to the business of life after a break is always challenging, I enjoyed reading the 'Welcome Back' messages to parents from principals this week. Athletics, food programs, upcoming school events, and gentle reminders are often contained in those weekly messages, and I hope they are helpful to families. Principals rarely get feedback on those messages, so please take a moment to share your feedback with your school principal.

Like many school districts across the province, we have partnered with the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University to participate in the set of tools encompassing the BC Child Development Monitoring System. Haida Gwaii School District participates in four of the five tools (we don't use the TDi). In the coming week, kindergarten teachers will meet with **Leighann Rodger** and **Janine Wilson** to discuss and



prepare for this year's [Early Development Instrument](#). Students in grades 5 and 8 will participate in the [Middle Years Development Instrument](#) while grade 10 – 12 students will be completing the [Youth Development Instrument](#). We know that various factors influence child/adolescent health, and these are key tools to help us monitor and provide adequate programming and support. Parents/Guardians of students at these grades will have or will be receiving a letter from their schools describing the instrument and process.

Our partnership with [BC Foundry](#), specific to student mental health and addictions, has us rolling out Year 1 of the [Preventure Program](#) to all of our grade 8 students in the coming weeks. Thank you to facilitators and helpers **Jenn Wissink, David McLean, Leighann Rodger, Jenna Perry, and Irene Klein**

Enjoy the stories from across the school district!

Respectfully,

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.

HONOURING XAAYDA KIL/XAAD KIL IN OUR SCHOOLS

Haawaa/Háw'aa to **Jaskwaan Bedard**, our District Haida Language & Culture Curriculum Implementation Teacher, and **Joanne Yovanovich**, our District Principal for Indigenous Education, for their hard work on the Honouring Language project for our schools.

Schools will receive the poster to the right in the coming weeks to help support our staff and students in using a variety of expressions in both Xaayda and Xaad Kil. Each expression will be contained in a sound file posted to the SD50 website to support learning.

When sharing this project, we were gently reminded that the use and pronunciation of Haida phrases like 'Haawaa' and names like 'Daajing Giids' were once seen as challenging, yet now, these are used consistently across Haida Gwaii. This project reminds us that conscious use of language is both respectful and necessary in supporting the rejuvenation and sustainability of the Haida language.

Honouring Xaayda Kil/Xaad Kil School District #50 – Haida Gwaii		
o To Greet	Sing.Gaay 'laa Singaay 'laa	good morning in Xaayda Kil good morning in Xaad Kil
o To Thank	Haawaa Háw'aa	thank-you in Xaayda Kil thank-you in Xaad Kil
o To Inquire Well-being	Gasia.ngun dang Giidang? Gasanuu dang Giidang?	how are you? in Xaayda Kil how are you? in Xaad Kil
o To Express Wellness	Dii 'laa ga Dii 'laagang	I am good/well in Xaayda Kil I am good/well in Xaad Kil
o To Check Permission	Yan gwa? Hu gu 'laa?	Is that right? in Xaayda Kil Is that ok? in Xaad Kil
o To Call for Attention	Gyuunuu hla Gyuunuu hlaa.uu	Do listen in Xaayda Kil Listen (plural) in Xaad Kil
o To Show Respect	K'ang.guudang.gna.gii Gán hl 'laadii	Be kind in Xaayda Kil Be nice in Xaad Kil
o To Address Others	Use Haida names when preferred	
o To Reference Haida Place Names	HiGaagildaa 'Llnagaay Daajing Giids K'il Kun 'Waan Kun/Gamadiis Gaw Tlaáe	Skidegate Daajing Giids Sandspit Port Clements Masset and surrounding areas
o To Reference Haida Chief and Clan Names	*see list here: https://www.haidanation.ca/hereditary-chiefs-council/	

* Xaayda Kil from SHIP Glossary, Xaad Kil from HLCI Teacher November 2023*

LIL'WAT SQUAMISH CULTURAL CENTER THRU CONNECTED NORTH (Shared By Vanessa Wahl)

Our class had the privilege of making cedar Paddle Rattles through our connection with [Lil'Wat Squamish Cultural Centre](#). The rattles have copper beads inside and all of the materials were provided through [Connected North](#). These faces say it all!



WELCOME FALLON CROSBY

Haida Gwaii School District is pleased to welcome **Fallon Crosby** to the role of District Haida Language & Culture Curriculum Support Teacher for the remainder of this school year. Port Clements Elementary is very excited to welcome Fallon as she will be introducing Haida singing and dancing to the school community.

JAN. 16TH '24 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE UPDATE

HAIDA EDUCATION COUNCIL (HEC) – ANNUAL REPORT LANGUAGE/CULTURE INITIATIVES

At our December 19th HEC meeting, District Principal Joanne Yovanovich presented on Haida Language and Culture programs at our schools. Haawaa/Háw'aa to all of our Haida Language & Culture teachers for sending in photographs and stories of their work!

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*

SK'AADGAA NAAY WELLNESS FAIR (Shared By Vanessa Wahl)

On November 30, Sk'aadgaa Naay held the first ever Wellness Fair. Students in Dave Wahl's grade 6/7 class and students in Vanessa Wahl's grade 5/6 class presented various topics about Wellness. All students in the school participated in the event. Younger students listened to the presentations and engaged in various Wellness activities organized by the students in Mr. and Mrs. Wahl's classes, such as yoga, running, football, soccer and gymnastics. Many topics were covered such as how traditional Haida food helps keep a healthy body and mind, how music can affect your mood, mental health facts, strategies for self care and information about feelings. This event highlighted student's knowledge of overall Wellness.

JANUARY ATHLETICS AT GUDANGAAY TLAATS'GAA NAAY (Shared By Cal Westbrook)

January is a big month for sports at GTN. We have our wrestling team travelling to Prince George to participate in a tournament at UNBC. Senior Boys basketball (ranked Honourable Mention in the province) will be attending tournaments in Smithers and Prince Rupert. Our Junior girls' basketball team will also travel to Houston to participate in a local tournament. All these tournaments will lead to our efforts to compete at the Northwest zone championships in February.

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*

CARVING WITH JIM HART (Shared By Ian Keir)

Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay students continue to work with **Jim Hart** on a large carving project. Haw'aa to Jim for coming in and working with our students and to **Kieran Wake** from Haida Child and Family for helping facilitate the project. Our maintenance staff are enclosing the area where Jim and the carvers work to protect it from the elements and allow carving to happen in all types of weather. **Haida Child and Family** is a major sponsor of this project, and we're very grateful for their belief that this is a highly meaningful project for this group of learners in our school.

