



Sing.Gaay 'laa / Singaay 'láa

Welcome to Taaxid Kung¹ (Sockeye month) | SGiwée Kungáas² (Seaweed Month)

Rather than share what is happening at each of our schools (although I do have a few highlights that have been shared below) within our Strategic Priority areas, this month's report focuses on providing the Board and the public with an annual update on year one of our strategic priorities. Haida Gwaii is fortunate to have a committed group of leaders and educators who rolled up their sleeves and dove into working on projects and strategies related directly to the Board of Education's three broad strategic objectives. Although there is still much work to do, I also want to express my gratitude and admiration for the Haida Gwaii team!

Prior to reading about our progress toward strategic objectives, I did want to share a few photos and stories from our schools.



Hawaa to Sk'aadgaa Naay's Indigenous Resource Worker Kelsey Pelton, who organized these student 'Red Dress Day' displays.

Early Learning Coordinator Janine Wilson has been helping facilitate year-end Parents as Literacy (PALS) sessions. Hawaa to her and to all the parents who

have said ok to sharing the joy expressed in these photos:



Watch for a grade 12 PALS session coming up in June!

¹ Xaayda kil

² Xaad kil

Hawaa to Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay teacher **Katie Willmot** who recently took a group of girls to Vancouver for the [Girls Who Leap program](#). Katie and the girls will host their new friends from Vancouver on Haida Gwaii in a few weeks. Here are a few highlights from Katie, along with some pictures:

- one highlight of the trip was playing in a 3 on 3 tournament with the Girls Who Leap program and some other youth from the island. The girls absolutely loved getting a chance to play basketball with other youth. They then got to learn about and share their experiences with racism in sport.
- another highlight of the trip was seeing the girls work together to film their own PSA's on girl's empowerment and leadership in sport. It was amazing to see them all take part and share their unique experiences. They're looking forward to watching them when the crew comes to Masset with the hope of the PSA's being shared around Canada.
- Another exciting day was when they got to design and paint their own Air Force 1s at an incredible space called Victory! It was neat to see the girls' unique personalities come out in their shoe designs.
- another highlight was learning how to golf with some incredible mentors. Afterwards, they got dressed up for a nice dinner at the golf club. The girls were excited when they were gifted Lululemon outfits!



- the night market and Granville Island were also big hits on this trip.

The group in Vancouver was incredibly kind and generous to us, and I am so grateful for everything they did for us! It was so wonderful seeing the girls' confidence and leadership skills grow throughout the trip.

We are really looking forward to hosting Girls Who Leap program in Masset in a couple weeks. The girls are very excited to share their life on Haida Gwaii with their new friends!

Hawaa Katie and girls for sharing as this sounds like an incredible experience!

At tonight's meeting, **school plans** for Agnes L. Mathers Elementary, Port Clement Elementary, Sk'aadgaa Naay Elem., and Gidgalang Kuuyas Naay will be shared. Thank you to the staff from these schools for their contributions. Parents in each of these schools are encouraged to check out the plans, which will be posted to the School District website. Please have a look at the following strategic objective updates and enjoy May!

Manu
Interim Superintendent



EMBRACING UNIQUE CULTURE AND TERRITORY



* **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AS PER EQUITY SCAN ***

- ✓ Increased honorarium for Haida Knowledge holders.
- ✓ Partnered with student leaders and McCreary to collect student feedback on cultural and outdoor learning experiences in schools.
- ✓ Haida Language Initiative deepens our understanding of language and protocols while creating an entry point for all staff and students.
- ✓ Equity scan regional session completed in Spring of 2023
- ◆ Review Haida Education Committee Terms of Reference (*May – Dec 2024*)
- ◆ SD50 Role Model Program (*Review goal and timeline*)



* **SUPPORT PLACE-BASED LEARNING IN SCHOOLS ***

- ✓ Assist schools with identifying and addressing barriers related to outdoor education.
- ✓ Support high schools in developing local Board-Authorized and Approved courses that recognize cultural learning.
- ✓ Review and strengthen the partnership with K'aayxada Adventure Camp.
- ◆ Increase staff fluency and understanding related to 'decolonizing' and 'Indigenizing' our schools and classrooms. (*Learning opportunity with Dr. Sara Davidson and Dr. Nikki Yee in 2024-25*)
- ◆ Staff development support specific to place-based learning. (*Ongoing*)



* **PRINCIPALS WORKING WITH DR. SARA DAVIDSON ***

- ✓ SD 50 principals to work with Dr. Sara Davidson at every 23 – 24 PVP meeting.
- ◆ Provide all new SD 50 teachers with a copy of Potlatch as Pedagogy.



* **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE HAIDA EDUCATION COUNCIL ON ALL SD 50 HAIDA LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INITIATIVES ***

- ✓ Publish an annual report for the Haida Education Council (HEC) related to all Haida Language and Culture initiatives within SD 50
- ✓ Support each of our schools in developing a portion of their school plan related to encouraging Haida language and culture activities.
- ✓ Collaborate and seek feedback from both Skidegate and Old Massett specific to Haida Language and Culture programs.
- ✓ Utilize resources provided by the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (SHIP) and the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN).
- ◆ Work with local communities to develop Haida Language and Culture postings that appeal to potential applicants.
- ◆ Support and strengthen Language Nest Programs
- ◆ Increase awareness and use of Ministry Approved Curriculum for Xaayda Kil/Xaad Kil K-12 (*in-progress*)



* **EXTENSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL HIRING PROGRAM ***

- ✓ Utilize the Human Rights Special Hiring Program to increase the number of Indigenous Educators and Employees in our system.

WORKING TOGETHER

* **STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS ***

- ◆ Create and communicate a calendar of external partner 'check-in' dates.
 - ✓ *Meetings with Masset Village Council & CAO (May '23, April '24)*
 - ✓ *Visit Chief Matthews School (May '23)*
- ◆ Provide municipalities / regional district with a fall overview of any capital projects completed at schools in their communities.
- ◆ Create opportunities for in-person visits by the Superintendent and Board Chair to share school district priorities.
- ◆ Host an annual meeting with RCMP, MCFD and Haida Gwaii Child and Family Services Society.

* **SUPPORTING PARENT LEARNING WITH SD 50 DPAC ***

- ✓ Superintendent and Trustee representatives regularly attend DPAC meetings.
- ✓ Work with DPAC to establish a theme and format for an annual parent learning event.
- ✓ Successful 'Power Up' event in Fall of 2023.

* **CRISIS RESPONSE PROCESS ***

- ✓ Create a small team to examine and formulate an SD 50 crisis response plan.

* **SUPPORT STUDENT VOICE***

- ✓ Work with McCreary Society to create an action project to capture SD 50 student voice.
- ✓ Support a process for Board of Education to hear from students and their experiences regularly.
- ◆ Assign a district contact to begin gathering student voice over the 23 – 24 school year.
- ◆ Gather a small group of representative students 4 – 6 times during the school year to assist with capturing student voice.

* **SUPPORT A PAC AT EACH OF OUR SCHOOLS ***

- ✓ Identify schools that currently do not have a PAC.
- ✓ Work with schools to create communication and an invitation to parents/guardians specific to PAC.
- ✓ Partner with DPAC to support parent presentations on the importance of a school PAC.

* **ADHERE TO ACCESSIBLE BC ACT ***

- ✓ Join the working group of Northern BC school districts working to create a plan specific to accessibility.
- ✓ Create a local SD50 accessibility committee.
- ✓ Publish, communicate and seek feedback on the SD50 Accessibility Plan
- ✓ Ensure SD50 website meets Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 (WCAG 2.1)

* **FOCUS ON RECRUITMENT & RETENTION ***

- ✓ Work within BCPSEA and MECC specific to incentives for relocation and retention.
- ✓ Work with post-secondary institutions to support on-line programs leading to teacher certification.
- ✓ Increase number of student teacher placements.
- ◆ Reassess housing possibilities for staff
- ◆ Ensure robust onboarding and orientation process for new employees.

STUDENT WELL-BEING



- ✓ Continued opportunities for schools and teachers to work with Literacy Helping coach.
- ✓ The first draft of the SD50 Literacy Framework was completed. *Requires final edits prior to consultation with educators.*
- ✓ Support literacy staff development
- ◆ Bi-monthly meetings specific to the development of an SD 50 literacy framework.
- ◆ Establish SD 50 Literacy Team consisting of representatives from PVP and teachers.



- ✓ Collection and analysis of grade 2 literacy data from both the Fall and Spring of the 2023 – 24 school year.
- ✓ Confirmation of partnership with Christine Fraser for 23 – 24.
- ✓ Purchase of F&P assessments for every school
- ✓ Initial training provided to interested teachers
- ✓ Continued support for teachers practicing and using the F&P assessment.
- ✓ Assisting teachers with analysis of F&P data to support literacy interventions.
- ✓ Support for Christine Fraser to continue mentoring/coaching teachers using the F&P
- ◆ Supporting an SD 50 teacher lead expert in administering the F&P assessment.



- ✓ Successful Year 1 rollout of PreVenture Program to all grade 8 students
- ✓ Participate in the Early Years Development Index (EDI), Middle Years Development Index (MDI), and Youth Development Index (YDI) in 2023 – 24.
- ✓ Participate in and analyze results from Adolescent Health Survey by the McCreary Society.



- ✓ Continued opportunity for teachers to participate in 'Thinking Classrooms' with a numeracy helping teacher.
- ◆ Focus on district-wide numeracy results using a district assessment.
- ◆ Establish a professional learning group specific to numeracy.
- ◆ Scan, select and pilot district numeracy assessment tool.
- ◆ Provide interested teachers with support in learning, implementing, and analyzing the results of district numeracy assessment.



- ✓ Strengthen existing programs: *PALs, Welcome to Kindergarten, Seamless Day, Strongstart*
- ✓ Explore opportunities to add programs like JustB4
- ✓ Explore creative opportunities to provide ECE certification.
- ✓ Begin planning for new Masset Daycare
- ◆ Develop Early Learning Priorities for SD50 *(in-progress)*

STUDENT WELL-BEING

* **SAFE, WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS ***

- ✓ SD 50 Website meets provincial accessibility requirements.
- ✓ SOGI Presentation to PVP group in April '23
- ✓ SD 50 participating in Northern BC School Districts Accessibility Committee.
- ✓ All school libraries will be provided with a consistent set of age-appropriate inclusion student resources.
- ✓ Schools will be supported and encouraged to plan and implement school-based inclusion activities.
- ✓ Staff development opportunities related to SOGI and inclusion.
- ✓ Collaborate with inclusion community representatives.
- ✓ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity representatives in each of our schools.
- ✓ Scan of accessibility obstacles in each of our schools.
- ◆ Accessibility policy work is underway.

* **TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTED LEARNING ***

- ✓ IPADs for Haida Gwaii's 1 to 1 project were purchased in 2020 - 21. We are heading into year 4 of a 6-year cycle. *(Ongoing)*
- ✓ Staff development opportunities related to using the IPAD in education. *(Ongoing)*
- ✓ Highlight staff and students who are using the IPAD in creative ways to support learning. *(Ongoing)*
- ✓ Continue to demonstrate how the IPAD can increase accessibility for students.

* **MASSET K-12 SCHOOL ***

- ✓ The Naming Committee, using the Board of Education's Naming Policy, provides the name for the new school, which was unanimously approved by the Board at the April 2024 Board meeting. New name: **Daaxiigan Sk'adáa Née**
- ✓ Vice Principal Cal Westbrook was hired for the new school.
- ✓ With the project delayed until September 2024, Principals Ian Keir, Cal Westbrook, and Claudette Lavoie used the Spring of 2024 to support staff with planning for the move to the new school.
- ✓ A public open house with 90 visitors occurred on May 3rd.
- ◆ Host Tahayghen Elementary closing ceremony.
- ◆ Host opening ceremonies and feast for the opening of Daaxiigan Sk'adáa Née
- ◆ Review year 1 of school to make adjustments for 2025-26 school year.

