

Superintendent's November 2025 Report

Condolences

On behalf of our school district, I wish to share our heartfelt condolences for the unimaginable loss of Michael Jones-White. Michael was known as a very kind hearted young man. He was a Haida dancer and an undeniable leader. We are grateful for the support of the Daaxiigan staff and community through this time. Our thoughts and blessings remain with the family and friends of Michael.

Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month

I am sharing this reminder from the Honourable, Jodie Wickens of the MCFD, in celebration of families who have welcomed children and youth as permanent members of their family. It also serves as a promotion of awareness for children and youth still waiting for permanent homes.

AP 4.00 Employment Equity

I am pleased to share that we have developed a new Administrative Procedure intended to outline our intentions, and the related procedures, for our district to apply for a Human Rights exemption through a Special Program application process. The intention of our employment equity plan is to prioritize qualified people of Indigenous ancestry for employment in our district, over other qualified applicants, until the number of staff identifying in this way matches or exceeds our representative student population. Thank you to Ken Evans, Human Resource Manager for his work on this.

Student Teachers

We are pleased to welcome the following student teachers to our district this year!

From VIU we welcome Emily Hoey, Meetika Kher, Alex Fenrich, and Josie Taylor. From UBC we welcome Francine Hans, Colleen Bradley, and Viktoriia (Vita) Kalamazh.

We are also grateful to have the following past student teachers of Haida Gwaii return to our district as certified teachers in our district. Thank you and welcome back!

Stephani Ono
Kamren Anderson
Nick Henderson
Nadja Smith-Hansen

ICBC Road Safety

ICBC has offered our schools a variety of different sessions regarding road safety. Each school has worked with them to create a plan to work with our students through November. Their workshops include a range of topics from preparing for your drivers' licensing and safe driving as a new driver for the secondary schools to pedestrian safety and scooter safety in elementary schools.

Operational Plan Report

Working Document Live on Website

The following is an update on our progress to date.

Student Well Being

Thank you to district Communication Skills Specialist Teachers, Jacqui Ferraby and Marci Malloy, District Principal, Leighann Rodger for creating a plan to ensure we complete the newly required Kindergarten Literacy Screener. Also thank you to all of the Kindergarten teachers for learning and applying this assessment to all of our Kindergarten classrooms and students. All of these staff gathered and met early in November for review of the data collected and to collaborate forward using that information. Very powerful action from our team. The next Kindergarten assessment takes place in February.

Thank you to Northern Health for partnering with us to provide ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) at the October 24/25, 2025 Professional Development Day. Also thank you to the staff from Haida Child and Families, Skidegate Health Center, SD50 staff and 6 students for attending this important learning.

Embracing Unique Culture and Territory

District Principal, Joanne Yovanovich and Deputy Superintendent, Manu Madhok hosted the second part of the professional learning series session with Dr Sara Davidson and Dr Cynthia Nicol. The focus is on enriching our Learning with Stories, Land, and Language from Haida Gwaii! This is being offered as a Four-Part Learning Series that staff may attend as a series in full or in part.

Several district staff are participating in a four part series offered by Monique Gray-Smith called *The Medicine of Stories*. Monique will host each session and invite a story teller to help her guide the exploration of how stories help us learn, nourish our spirits, strengthen communities and inspire change.

This series features the four incredible storytellers:

- November 5: Cherie Demaline (*Marrow Thieves*)
- December 3: Waubgeshig Rice (*Moon of the Crusted Snow*)
- January 7: Ivan Coyote (*Care Of*)
- February 4: Carolyn Roberts (*Restorying Education: Decolonizing Your Practice Using a Critical Lens*)

Working Together

The Port Clements Elementary School PAC parent and community input survey was closed and collated. Superintendent, Lisa Bernoties and the PAC and vice principal, Nadine Whittle, reviewed the results from the survey. Lisa and District Principal, Leighann Rodger joined the PCE PAC on Thursday, October 9th to begin co-authoring the focus for a new School Learning Planning. Lisa met with the staff on Thursday, October 30, 2025 to share this input toward the further development of a new School Learning Plan. The PAC has now finalized a three page overview to describe the school learning plan's intended direction. There is a new survey being distributed soon, with the PAC's new school learning plan, to all parents across Haida Gwaii school district. This survey will ask parents if this new plan inspires them enough to have their child attend PCE and/or remain at PCE for the intermediate years. I will bring these results back to the Board with options for consideration at the February, 2026 Board Meeting.