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U'Mista Cultural Centre Visit



Intermediate students visited U'Mista Cultural Centre, guided by their Culture and Language teacher, exploring the new and old exhibits.

Important Dates

Feb. 4	Mt. Cain trip parent/family meeting at 6:30
Feb. 10	Mt. Cain trip
Feb. 14	Pro-D Day, no school
Feb. 17	Family Day, no school
Feb. 20	Intermediate Class trip to Lahal Tournament in Port Hardy
Feb. 21	Ready, Set, Learn event for pre-school children and their caregiver
Feb. 26	Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 27	Science Fair at 1:00
March 31 - April 4	Missoula Children's Theatre. Please don't schedule student's appointments for this week if you want your child to participate in the play.



Alert Bay School Newsletter

January 2025

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable winter break. As we move into the second half of the school year, there are many exciting opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and connect with their culture and community.

Our Intermediate class recently had the incredible opportunity to visit the Nawalakw Culture and Language Camp, where they engaged in immersive Kwak'wala activities, harvested traditional foods, and explored the beautiful trails and beaches. It was a meaningful experience that deepened their cultural learning.

Looking ahead, we are excited that our Intermediate students will be attending **Eagle View Elementary School's Annual Ala'xwa (Bone Game) Tournament on February 20** for the first time. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about and participate in this traditional game while connecting with other schools and communities.

We also want to encourage participation in the **2024/25 Student Learning Survey**. This annual survey is open to students in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12, their parents, and all school staff in B.C. public schools. Your feedback helps us plan for the future and improve the school experience. The survey is open from **January 6 to May 2, 2025**, and we appreciate your input.

On **February 13 at 10 a.m.**, the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Healing Gathering** will take place at the U'Mista Cultural Centre. While the school will not be attending as a group, we encourage families to consider attending with their children if they feel it is appropriate. Being with family during such a heartfelt and emotional gathering provides important support for young ones.

For our youngest learners, we are excited to host a **Ready, Set, Learn** event on **February 21**, open to preschool children and their caregivers. More details will be shared as we get closer to the date.

Another exciting event is our **Science Fair on February 27**. We look forward to seeing all the creative and innovative projects our students will present. Thank you in advance for supporting your child with their project.

Lastly, we are thrilled to welcome back **Missoula Children's Theatre** for a week-long residency from **March 31 to April 4**. If your child would like to fully participate in this incredible theatre experience, we kindly ask that families avoid scheduling appointments during this week.

Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate the strong connections between our school and families, and we look forward to a fantastic start to 2025.

Gilakas'la
Roberta Harris

Wa'yanx - Herring Spawning Time



Inside this issue:

Nawalakw Culture and Language Camp	2
Alphabet Exchange	2
Welcoming Coho Eggs to Our School	3
Farewell to Croy Family	3
Remembrance Day Contest Winner	3
U'Mista Cultural Centre Visit	4
Important Dates	4

Nawalakw Culture and Language Camp



Intermediate students took a field trip to the Nawalakw Culture and Language Camp in Bond Sound, traveling to and from Hada by boat. During their visit, they harvested traditional foods and explored trails and beaches. Students participated in a variety of activities, including art, bingo, weaving, yoga, and total physical response language learning and many other immersive Kwak'wala activities.

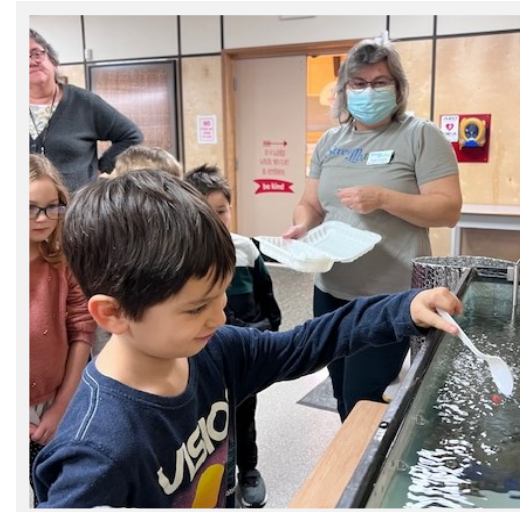
Alphabet Exchange



The K/1/2/3 class participated in an Alphabet Exchange this year with other classes from around the province. We were responsible for creating the Ks for the alphabet, We sent our Ks to twenty five classrooms along with a letter telling them about us. It was an interesting and exciting way to learn and practice our letters of the alphabet but also learn about other communities around British Columbia.

Welcoming Coho Eggs to Our School

On January 13, Trudy Lacasse from the Salmon Stewardship Centre delivered 50 Coho salmon eggs to our school. To honor the eggs' arrival, Charlie drummed and led the students in a traditional song. Each student then took turns carefully placing an egg into the aquarium. Over the coming weeks, the Mrs. Bragan's class will nurture the eggs and observe their development to the fry stage. Once ready, the fry will be released into the Cluxewe River, where their parents originated.



Farewell to the Croy Family

On January 24, our school gathered to say goodbye to the Croy family with a fun-filled going-away party. The gym was decorated, and everyone enjoyed hotdogs, nachos, veggie crudités, and cupcakes. We danced, played limbo, and shared warm wishes. We'll miss them and wish them all the best!



Remembrance Day North Island Zone Contest Winner

Congratulations to Wynne James for winning first place for her black and white poster at the Royal Canadian Legion's North Vancouver Island Zone Poster and Literacy Competition. Her winning entry has been forwarded to BC/Yukon Command for Provincial judging.

