School Growth Plan

Nathan Barton Elementary School, School District # 92 (Nisga’a)

2021 – 2022

Lavita M Robinson, School Principal

**Overview:**

Gingolx is a small village community of approximately three hundred and 50 people. It is the most isolated of all village communities in the Nisga’a School district. The community is served by one paved highway. The closest major center is Terrace which is one hundred seventy-five km away. The relative isolation of Gingolx presents some challenges for the learning community at Nathan Barton Elementary. There is a shortage of Teachers on Call and poor teacher retention overall.

Nathan Barton Elementary serves thirty-eight students from grades K-7, 90% Nisga’a students. There are three classroom teachers, One Nisga’a Language & Culture Teacher/school principal, three educational assistants with one assistant acting as our Home School Coordinator as well, one Learning Support Teacher and a District Student counsellor.

Students receive 120 minutes of Nisga’a language fluency study each week from the Nisga’a language teacher. Nisga’a language fluency continues throughout the day in mainstream classrooms.

Students actively participate in annual cultural events such as Hoobiyee (Nisga’a New Year) and Fishery Bay Field trips (traditional oolichan fishing camp) and student lead learning feasts.

**Belief Statements:**

We believe that all children are capable of learning and experiencing success.

We believe that respect for all individuals is a cornerstone to learning and teaching in reference to Nisga’a laws of the Nation.

We believe education is a shared responsibility between the home, the school, and the community.

We believe that exemplary teaching requires sound planning, the effectual delivery of lessons, strong classroom management and leadership, and the use of adaptive assessments.

We believe in lifelong learning.

We believe every child can learn and achieve at high standards. Every child is a genius.

**Mission Statement:**

Through the use of innovative and effective pedagogy our goal at Nathan Barton Elementary is to help our students develop their hearts and minds to the fullest.

**School Goals:**

* **Our first school goal is to improve decoding skills as well as comprehension skills across all grades.**

All students are assessed using the *PM Benchmark diagnostic* tests. The assessment allows teachers to then create small learning groups based on the student’s respective scores.

* NBES will continue to use the Read Well program, and or the Guided Reading program, with a focus on decoding and comprehension. We are excited to implement the Joyful literacy program this year. All three reading programs allow for seamless ongoing assessment that, in turn, informs instruction. It also accommodates daily instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics, vocabulary, reading fluency, and comprehension that helps to build the foundation necessary for students to become lifelong readers.
* **Our second goal is to continue to improve social responsibility**.
* Bi-weekly a school wide assembly is held where lessons based on Moral Intelligence are taught. The school assemblies include the teaching and modeling of empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, and fairness. The virtues of positive behavior strategies are taught and practiced throughout the school to support the learning of every student.
* Elders and community role models are a big part of this goal. Elders and role models are invited to speak to individual classrooms around social responsibility.
* **Our third goal is to bring Nisga’a Language into the mainstream classrooms**.
* We will teach weather, greetings, counting, and general conversation in rooms other than the language classroom.
* Role models will come to the school to assist with translation of language and to teach and model Nisga’a language.
* Children will learn songs and chants that will teach of Nisga’a colors (this will encourage students to become confident when speaking Nisga’a language).
* use Nisga’a calendars in all classrooms for weather, days of the week, months of the year, graphing, seasons, seasonal harvest, etc**.**

**Data Collection:**

* Read Well assessments will be administered to all students periodically throughout the school
* PM Benchmark is ongoing throughout the year
* School writing assessment
* Leveled Nisga’a language oral assessment
* Joyful literacy assessment