

Student Focus: Melody Aksidan

Hi my name is Melody Aksidan, and I am one of the Gitsegukla (pronounced "Git-se-goo-klā") Gidahames Dancers.



My community is located approximately 20 min from New Hazelton B.C. I am very proud of my Gitxsan Nation, our traditions, especially All Native Dancing. We perform to acknowledge our Creator, the gifts provided and our spirits. I am part of the Frog (Granada) clan as is my entire family. My Ge'ets (grandmother) is one of our chiefs. One thing of note is that nearly my whole family is a part of the Gidahnes dancers. I look forward to continuing the family tradition.

I started dancing when I was 5 years old. My Mother, Crystal, put me into dancing while I was young, and I continued as I grew older. All the events we have is to celebrate the food we get for the year, such as Crab, fish, moose, and other supplies. One of the events is celebrated in February. It is called a Hobiye which is usually celebrated and held in Vancouver, or towards Nass like Gingolx, New Aiyansh, Green Ville (Laxgalts'op) and Gitwinksihlkw. In Gitsegukla BC we celebrate Hiimox in November to celebrate the moose and grouse that we get for our winter food supply. I have had the opportunities to participate in these celebrations.



College Heights Secondary School is immensely proud of Melody's contribution to her community and our school culture. After graduating from College Heights Secondary School this year, Melody is interested in pursuing the culinary arts at CNC or exploring other post-secondary opportunities.