Symmetry, Reflections and Translations

Inspired by Haida Art
For this project, our class worked with Cori Savard.

Cori is currently working on a pole that will stand at the new Health Centre in Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. Cori carved these two Naaw (octopus) masks for our school. Naaw is our school mascot.
“Symmetry is important to Haida artwork... it's something we look for.”

-Cori Savard, Haida Artist
Cori Savard visited our classroom and shared how tracing paper is used to create symmetrical images, translations, and rotations.
Students created designs on tracing paper that were then transferred to wood earrings and pendants.
Our class travelled by bus to Cori’s carving site located north of Skidegate, on the east coast of Haida Gwaii.
Students learned how symmetry is created using a compass or divider.
Notice the work of Cori’s two young daughters (Grade 1 and preschool) - she is teaching them the math and stories that influence her work.

We also learned how Cori manages 3-Dimensional symmetry - this would make an amazing lesson for high school math students.
Student Comment:

“I haven’t learned math like this before. But it makes sense to me... I guess it’s in my blood.”

-Grade 7