

# Hammond Bay Elementary

Year: 2021-2022

Principal: Shannon Apland



## Our School Story

### **What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?**

Hammond Bay is a single track French Immersion school that is under construction and new leadership this year. The mandate set out in previous years at Ecole Hammond Bay, that we will continue to follow this year, is to develop the learning of the second language. In primary years we focus most on oral expression and building the vocabulary base needed for reading and writing in a second language. As student's knowledge of the language increases, the students extend their oral expression by engaging more frequently in French conversations.

This year we are extending our mandate to include a focus on safety, growth mindset, and inclusive practices. To accomplish this goal we will be looking to the local wisdom of our Indigenous knowledge keepers, as well as delving into current research in good pedagogy, inclusive practices and mindfulness in the work place and classroom.

### **What are the important demographics of our school and community?**

Ecole Hammond Bay is located on the unceded traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw People. The school is situated next to the beautiful Neck Point Park and is bordered by forest areas, a creek, and the ocean. We are a tight-knit student population of 363 students in 16 classroom divisions and 36 staff who believe that 'Every Child Matters.' Our community is invested in the growth and development of the children of Ecole Hammond Bay and we are privileged to have a dedicated PAC and parent support group.

Ecole Hammond Bay is undergoing an expansion. We are currently under construction to add 10 additional classrooms, a band/music room and open collaborative spaces for students to work together. Construction began in February 2021 and is expected to be completed by January 2023.

## Our School Goals

To be a safe caring and healthy learning and working environment that is inclusive of the diversity of our entire learning community.

To be a leader of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Truth and Reconciliation

## Our School Celebration Story

This year at Ecole Hammond Bay we strived to be a safe, caring and healthy learning/working environment that is inclusive of the diversity of our entire community. At the start of the school year staff members, students and parent/guardians were asked what special customs they celebrate at home to ensure we recognized and acknowledged what is important to all of our community members throughout the school year. We made celebrating kindness, giving back to the community, and learning about special cultural celebrations our priority over the Winter months. Our inclusion club "GLOW" (Gender Loving Openminded Warriors-named by the students) hosted one of this year's highlights—a school wide "outdoor dance party" that involved face painting, giant bubbles and a conga line. The year ended with a Fun Fair put on by our PAC with the support of Admin. This Fun Fair was a wonderful gathering of our community and a celebration of a successful school year that was full of diversity, fun, kindness and learning.



**Truth and Reconciliation:** We worked with Syeyutsus Knowledge Keeper Ted Cadwallader to develop a deeper understanding of the traditional territory we are so privileged to work, play and learn on. We learned how to be better stewards of the land. A major highlight was learning that the land (shown below where teacher is teaching and Ted is standing) was traditionally known as "Xwta'uw'nuc" by the Coast Salish people. Bringing this name back to life and incorporating it into our daily announcements had an emotional impact of connection to this area and land that is hard to describe in words but I felt it and was told by many, staff and students (and parents) they felt it too. A truly amazing gift..

