

Hammond Bay Elementary

Year: 2021-2022

Principal: C. Bohm



Our School Story

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

Ecole Hammond Bay is a single-track French Immersion elementary school in Nanaimo, located next to Neck Point Provincial Park. The school is currently undergoing an expansion to add ten new classrooms, a Kindergarten and Band rooms and collaboration spaces.

Ecole Hammond Bay's enrolment is based on successful applicants through the District's French Immersion Lottery. Without catchment boundaries, the school receives students from all corners of Nanaimo and surrounding communities.

Our beautiful location has allowed the students and staff at Ecole Hammond Bay to focus on outdoor education, environmental conservation and sustainability, and Indigenous knowledge initiatives while incorporating these learnings into the literacy and numeracy school goals. Our school works as a team to bring learning to life and accessible to all.

What are the important demographics of our school and community?

Entry to Ecole Hammond Bay is through the District's Lottery for Kindergarten or Late Entry Grade One. Transfers to Ecole Hammond Bay from other Immersion or Francophone schools occurs from Grade Two to Grade Seven. Ecole Hammond Bay is a school without catchment boundaries; therefore, all students are accepted, dependent on space availability.

Ecole Hammond Bay is currently expanding and will be adding 10 new classrooms, a Kindergarten room, a Band room, and collaboration spaces.

Our School Goals

To be a leader in environment stewardship and sustainability
Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment

Our School Celebration Story

Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment

Ecole Hammond Bay's commitment to the learning success of students has stemmed from the staff's continued commitment to improve instruction and assessment practices. Ecole Hammond Bay strongly believes that all students can be successful French Immersion learners. The staff believe: Learning requires the active participation of the learner, that learning is an individual and social process, and that people learn in varying ways and at different rates. Using the Spiral of Inquiry model, Ecole Hammond Bay has implemented several literacy and numeracy strategies K-7. The data indicates that our learning is continuing in the ascending trajectory.

As part of the school-wide professional learning this year, the staff at Ecole Hammond Bay participated in a number of workshops which support meeting the learners' needs. The staff have received training for EASE Anxiety program and have begun to incorporate the program into their Tier 1 UDL practices.

To be a leader in environment stewardship and sustainability:

Located next to the Neck Point Provincial Park, Ecole Hammond Bay has utilized its outdoor surroundings for learning opportunities. However, due to Covid-19, Ecole Hammond Bay focused further on creating outdoor learning classrooms and learning opportunities for students. The staff incorporated learning at Neck Point into their regular instructional practice, not only for physical education, but also for every aspect of the curriculum K-7. Learning about our local area has led to actively participating in protecting and conserving the habitats for the flora and fauna. Ecole Hammond Bay has been involved in stewardship of the Neck Point Park beaches, forest and Walley Creek. Students and staff have partnered with the City of Nanaimo, the Pacific Biological Station, ViU and NDSS to monitor species, remove invasive species, and generally take care of our natural spaces.

Ecole Hammond Bay has also participated in the District's Energy Cup Challenge. For the second year in a row, Ecole Hammond Bay has won one of the top three positions for its commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. We have reduced our energy consumption by participating in Sweater Days, Dimming the Lights campaigns, and significantly reducing our recycling and garbage waste.

NLPS Board Goals

Choose a goal

NLPS Board Objective(s)

Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment

Collaborative Inquiry Goal



PLAN

Scanning: What's going on for our learners? How do we know? Why does it matter

This is the third year of the Literacy and Numeracy goal. We know that the students of Immersion, on average, do well within the confines of the learned language, but struggle to express themselves orally and in written formats because they do not have the extensive vocabulary base as native language speakers do. This is important to explore as the goal of the Immersion program is to promote competency and fluency in all aspects of the language learning: oral, aural, and written.

Focusing: Where will concentrating our efforts make the most difference? How are we contributing to the situation?

Using the Spirals of Inquiry model, the Ecole Hammond Bay staff K-7 are exploring strategies to reduce these barriers, by providing more opportunities to speak spontaneously.

ACT

New Action: What can we do differently to make "enough" of a difference?

New Learning: How and where will we learn more about what to do?

By incorporating more opportunities for spontaneous conversations and vocabulary acquisition, Ecole Hammond Bay is expecting to see an increase in the proficiency scales for students in reading, writing and oral capacities. Data will be collected throughout the year to help guide practice: ALPIN, Proficiency Scales, GB+, etc.

OBSERVE

Checking: Have we made “enough” of a difference?

Evidence: How do we know? What evidence do we have to show our impact?

Ecole Hammond Bay staff have noticed although students have made gains in their language learning, there has also been an increase in student and family anxiety this year which has negatively impacted students’ ability to be successful learners. Ecole Hammond Bay staff, while continuing to refine the Spiral of Inquiries for literacy and numeracy, also furthered their professional learning of underlying causes which may impact performance and committed to the implementation of the EASE Anxiety program as Tier 1 UDL instruction practice.

REFLECT

Lessons Learned: How and when will we share our progress and insights?

Next Steps: What are our next steps for students? What do we need to learn more about?

Ecole Hammond Bay has shared its learning journey with the District, the PAC and with community members and will continue to do so moving forward.

Further learning and exploration is needed in language acquisition for fluency strategies is an ongoing goal of the Immersion program, and will be continued by Ecole Hammond Bay. In addition, deeper learning of factors which impact learning and strategies/programs which reduce the barriers will be continued.

NLPS Board Goals

Choose a goal

NLPS Board Objective(s)

To be a leader in environment stewardship and sustainability

Collaborative Inquiry Goal



PLAN

Scanning: What's going on for our learners? How do we know? Why does it matter

Focusing: Where will concentrating our efforts make the most difference? How are we contributing to the situation?

Located next to Neck Point Park, Ecole Hammond Bay's aim is to build an appreciation of the stunning and complex natural environment students learn and play in. Ecole Hammond Bay will focus on developing a more comprehensive outdoor education program, one that incorporates all aspects of the curriculum.

ACT

New Action: What can we do differently to make "enough" of a difference?

New Learning: How and where will we learn more about what to do?

In partnering with the City of Nanaimo, the Pacific Biological Station, ViU and other schools in SD68, students received hands on learning opportunities in the surrounding natural environment. Beach clean up, forest and marine ecosystems maintenance and salamander habitat conservation were just a few opportunities Ecole Hammond Bay students participated in. Professional readings of "Engaging Imagination in Ecological Education" (Judson) and "A Walking Curriculum: Evoking Wonder and Developing Sense of Place K-12" (Judson), guided the implementation of learning in the natural classroom in all aspects of the K-7 curriculum at Ecole Hammond Bay.

OBSERVE

Checking: Have we made “enough” of a difference?

Evidence: How do we know? What evidence do we have to show our impact?

Ecole Hammond Bay’s students are actively engaged in the learning opportunities presented through our outdoor education programs. Students are beginning to self-initiate additional learning opportunities for their peers throughout the school: videos, eco-club, etc. Ecole Hammond Bay is also committed to reducing its carbon footprint by reducing its energy consumption and waste production. Students and staff participated in activities such as Sweater Days and Dimming the Lights campaign.

REFLECT

Lessons Learned: How and when will we share our progress and insights?

Next Steps: What are our next steps for students? What do we need to learn more about?

Ecole Hammond Bay shares its progress with the District, the PAC and community partners continuously throughout the year through presentations, videos, etc. Ecole Hammond Bay won second place in the Energy Cup Challenge this year, with it being only the second year of the school’s participation in the competition. The prize funding is committed to building an outdoor classroom at Ecole Hammond Bay.

The next step is to grow the partnerships the school has with community groups. A professional development commitment for next year is to further explore, learn and incorporate the indigenous knowledge of the local flora and fauna in outdoor learning opportunities.