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School Year: 2015-2016

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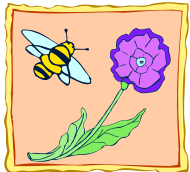
Principal: Christine Bohm

Vice-Principal: Sharyn Andruski-Collins

Secretaries: Susan Clark

Marina Lockhart

## Principal's Message



This is an exciting time of year at Hammond Bay. We have so many exciting activities still on the horizon before the end of the year. We encourage all students to take part in the variety of options available.

As we move into May, I would like to welcome Mme. Kelly Payne back to Hammond Bay. Mme. Payne is returning from maternity leave and will be teaching Tuesdays – Thursdays in Division 13 as of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mme. Danielle will continue to be the classroom teacher on Mondays and Fridays.

As we have just completed the Spell-a-thon, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students for taking on the challenge of learning all those words. I am hearing how well you've done!

We have begun our whole school weekly Neck Point Walk/Runs in preparation for the Track & Field season. Our School Track and Field date is May 5<sup>th</sup>. Parent volunteers are needed for the day. If you are interested, please complete the bottom portion of your child's permission slip and/or email me at [cbohm@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:cbohm@sd68.bc.ca).

We are once again offering the DARE program to the Grade 5 students. Lessons are on Monday mornings in both Division 10 and 11. Thank you to Constable Jensen for instructing and to PAC for supporting this valuable program.

Please come and join us May 11 and 12 for the Spring Concerts and Band Concert. We are looking forward to seeing the musical talents of your children. Thank you to Mrs. Andruski-Collins and Ms. De Verteuil for organizing these musical events.

Grade 7 students will be participating in the Swim to Survive program, starting April 26<sup>th</sup>. Permission slips have been distributed already along with a synopsis of the program. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher or myself.

Mark your calendars! Class/Team/Grade 7/Whole School Photos will be taking place on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Concours d'art oratoire has taken on a new visage this year. Students in various intermediate classes will be presenting using the *Patati Patata* format. The school presentations will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the students and teachers willing to try the new format, and Mme. Lou for organizing.

Hammond Bay is once again hosting Bedtime Shenanigans in the evening of April 28<sup>th</sup>. This event is aimed at children 3-4 years old. The evening will be filled with crafts, story-telling, music and movement, and a snack. Please RSVP the school if you are wishing to attend with your child.

Bookfest and Healthamongus are two beloved annual events happening at Hammond Bay during the first week of May. Kindergarten students will be getting an extra special treat at the Bookfest this year. They are going on a field trip to the public library! Thank you Mme. Lou and PAC for sponsoring the Bookfest. Information about Healthamongus will be coming home from the classroom teacher.

Just a reminder to all parents that May 16<sup>th</sup> is a Curriculum Implementation Day for teachers. School will be closed for students. This is the second day provided by the Ministry of Education for teachers to explore, prepare and plan using the new redesigned curriculum.

During the next two months, we will be practicing our second required Lock Down practice. This practice will be conducted outside of instructional time (during recess). Staff and students have been briefed as to what to expect. Please remind your children that three (3) consecutive bells means to evacuate the field immediately and head to the nearest open door of the school.

The School District will be hosting Budget 2016-2017 meetings and presentations throughout the months of April and May. These meetings are open to the public. The next Budget meeting will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup>, at which Superintendent Mr. Blain will be presenting the

proposed budget for next year. For more information, please visit the school district's website at [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca).

*Christine Bohm*

## **Mme. A's Corner**

Wonderful music is being prepared by Ecole Hammond Bay students. We hope that you will be able to set aside time to attend your child's concert. Please note when classes are performing as we have concerts on May 11 and May 12.

### **Wednesday, May 11 1:00 Gym**

Mme Kathleen Kindergarten  
Mme Natascha Grade One  
Mme Monica & Mme Antoinette Grade Two  
M Palmer & Mme Anneli Grade Three  
Mme Isabelle Grade 4/5

### **Thursday, May 12 1:00 Gym**

Mme Linda Kindergarten  
Mme Raduta Grade One  
Mme Kim Grade Two  
M Mercier Grade Three  
Mme Williams Grade Four

### **Thursday, May 12 6:30 Gym**

M La Bounty Grade Six  
Mme Clarke Grade Six/Seven  
M Kevin Grade Six/Seven  
I would like to that the Parent Advisory Council for supporting the Band Programme this year!  
We hope you enjoy the showcase.



## **Are you moving?**

If you are planning to move away from the Nanaimo area or are transferring your children to another school next year, please advise the office as soon as possible. Your cooperation greatly assists us in determining our numbers and school organization for the 2016-2017 school year.

## **Class Placements for 2016-2017**

Staffing for the next school year has yet to be finalized by the School District; however Hammond Bay staff will begin the process of student class placements in the last month of school.

The staff works carefully as a team to discuss the best placement for their students. We consider the following criteria when making these decisions;

- Gender balance
- Mix of academic ability levels

- Student learning style
- Teaching style
- Student's special needs
- Child and parent relationship with teacher
- Maturity level
- Work habits
- Physical and intellectual growth
- Contractual agreement
- Educationally relevant information from parents

The decision for placement is primarily based on the recommendation of the student's present teacher(s), the person(s) most familiar with their needs but according to the *School Act*, it is ultimately the Principal's decision and responsibility.

Parents may submit a letter to the Principal stating the type of learning environment you believe your child would need to be successful. Please do not indicate a specific teacher, but rather I would ask that you frame your comments in constructive and positive terms which highlight the educational merits for your child. Teachers will also be reading the letters. Please do not make an appointment with the teacher or myself to discuss the content of your letter. **Only written requests to the Principal, submitted by May 20, 2016, will be considered in the process.** In arranging new classes, we will endeavor to place students in the best educational setting. Please note that teacher assignments to specific classes will not be confirmed until late June, or even September. Thank you for your support and cooperation.



## **Erase Bullying Resource**

The Ministry of Education in conjunction with School Districts across the province have developed and implemented an online student and parent resource about and to report bullying incidents. Please visit [www.erasebullying.ca](http://www.erasebullying.ca) for more information.

## **After School Expectations**

Hammond Bay School is located in an ideal setting. Students love to stay after school and play on the playground and in the surrounding forest. Only two school staff offer after school supervision (Front and Upper Playground) for 15 minutes after dismissal. Due to this limited level of supervision, I would like to thank parents for picking up their children promptly after dismissal. Students playing in the forest should be directly supervised by their parent or a parent designate. Unaccompanied students are not

allowed in the forest. Please review expectations regarding “stranger safety” with your children. We often have strangers walking through our school grounds or walking in the forest on their way to Neck Point Park.

## Spring/Summer Allergy Season

We have had many students come to the office complaining of seasonal allergies such as itchy/watery eyes etc. If your child has seasonal allergies, please stop by the office to complete a Medication Form and provide us with your child’s allergy medication (Benadryl/Chloratipolon). This will save you a trip to the school with medication. Students must not keep medication in their backpack; it must be stored at the office.

## Spell-a-thon

The big test took place the week of April 4-8. Following the test, students were asked to collect their pledges and return them to the school by April 22nd. All students who participate in the Spell-A-Thon will receive a token gift.. Thank you to PAC for sponsoring this event. This is an important PAC fundraising event and we would like to thank all families for their support.



## Track and Field

Track and Field practices have now started in the students’ PE classes.

Grade 3 to 7 students are invited to participate in our School Track and Field Meet on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Rotary Bowl (9:30-1:45).

Thank you to all the parents who have expressed interest to volunteer. The donation of your time is greatly appreciated.

Over the next few weeks, students who have qualified will then continue their training in preparation for the Zone Meet on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to McGirr Elementary School for switching with Ecole Hammond Bay to allow our Grade 7 students to participate.

Age Groups for Track and Field are:

Tykes – born in 2006-2007

PeeWee – born in 2004-2005

Bantam – born in 2002-2003

## Healthamongus

Upcoming on May 2-6 students in Kindergarten – Grade 4 will participate in the annual Healthamongus Days event with Nanaimo Parks and Recreation at Beban Park. Healthamongus Days is an event with games and activities to encourage a healthy lifestyle through activity.

This year the activities will be taking place outside, so remember to dress for any type of weather!

## Class/Team/Whole School Photos



Freeze Frame photography will be here on Tuesday, April 26th for class, team and whole school photos.

## Dress Code

As in the past, we appreciate the fact that our students come to school appropriately dressed for our school activities and the weather. Please remember to have a pair of running shoes for PE at school if you are planning to wear sandals. **Flip Flops are not appropriate footwear for school.** T-shirt logos must be appropriate and shirts should cover the midriff and should not be off the shoulders. Clothing or jewelry that have references to drugs or alcohol may not be worn to school. Beach wear: **spaghetti strap tops, short shorts, muscle shirts, open back t-shirts etc. are not to be worn at school.** Students will be asked to change or school clothing may be offered if alternative clothing is not available. Casual school wear is expected to be worn by all students.



## Library News



Library News:

\* Ecole Hammond Bay is proud to host the spring Scholastic Book Sale on April 21-22. Items will be both in French and English.

\* The Gr 4 students in Mme William's class are proud to display their Aboriginal Dioramas in the library for the next couple of weeks. Come check it out, it is very impressive!

\* Thank you PAC for all books donated to the library. The latest processed books are on display!

Mme Lou - Teacher Librarian





Sports

As we wind up the Sports season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent coaches, helpers, and teacher sponsors for their dedication and support in making the SD68’s Interschool Athletic Activities program 2015-2016 such a wonderful opportunity for our students to participate in. Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding athletic performances this year!

Cougar/Bear Safety

In the spring, summer and fall, bear sightings in the vicinity of schools are fairly common and occasionally there is a sighting of a cougar. All sightings should be reported to 1-877-952-7277. Ask for the conservation officer on duty.

Below are a few basic safety rules with regard to cougars. More detailed information is available on the internet at [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/)

- Never approach a cougar. Although cougars will normally avoid a confrontation, all cougars are unpredictable. Cougars feeding on a kill may be dangerous.
- Always give a cougar an avenue of escape.
- Stay calm. Talk to the cougar in a confident voice.
- Pick all children up off the ground immediately. Children frighten easily and their rapid movements may provoke an attack.
- Do not run. Try to back away from the cougar slowly. Sudden movement or flight may trigger an instinctive attack.
- Do not turn your back on the cougar. Face the cougar and remain upright.
- Do all you can to enlarge your presence. Do not crouch down or try to hide. Pick-up sticks or branches and wave them about.

Students walking to and from schools:

- Walk in groups.
- Stick to the roads – do not walk through bush.

Bike Safety

As summer approaches and the weather is getting better, here are a few bike safety rules to remember:

- Always wear a safety approved bicycle helmet.



- Always ride in view of your parent or guardian.
- Let you parent or guardian check that your bicycle is in good mechanical shape.
- Make sure your bicycle is safe and has reflectors, lights and a bell.
- Look both ways at intersections and make eye contact with drivers before proceeding.
- Give a warning as you approach walkers/runners to pass them.
- Watch closely for cars leaving driveways.
- Ride with traffic.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday April 15	Spirit Day / Hot Lunch
Tuesday April 19	Div. 7- Pottery Div 6 – Woodgrove Manor
Thurs/Fri April 21-22	Scholastic Book Fair Community Cleanup(Fri) “Flashlight Friday”
Tuesday, April 26	Class Photos Gr 7 Swim to Survive
Thursday, April 28	Div 6 – Science Fair Patati/Patata presentation 1:40pm Bedtime Shenanigans 6-7:30pm
Friday, April 29	Hot Lunch
Tuesday, May 3	Gr 7 Swim to Survive
Wednesday, May 4	Kindergartens –Public Library
Thursday, May 5	Div. 5/6 – N. Isl. Wildlife Recovery Centre 9-1pm “We Bake for Change”-bake sale Track and Field - School
Friday, May 6	Bookfest & Hot Lunch
Wednesday,May 11	Spring Concert (day)
Thursday, May 12	Spring Concert (day) & Band Concert (evening)
Friday, May 13	Non-instructional day- no school
Monday, May 16	Non-instructional day – no school
Tuesday, May 17	Patati Patata – Port Theatre
Wednesday, May18	Grade 7 Visit to NDSS
Thursday, May 19	Div 9 – Science World
Friday, May 20	Spirit Day & Hot Lunch
Monday, May 23	Victoria Day – no school
May 24-27	Gr 7 - Strathcona Trip
Tuesday, May 31	Track & Field – Zone Meet
Wednesday, June 29	Last day of School
Thursday, June 30	Administrative Day – Schools closed.

## **Community Events:**



Get on your bike and ride! You can take part in Bike to Work Week in lots of different ways. Register as an individual, a team member, or a team leader. However you participate, it's good for you, the community, and the environment!

Individual - Want a fun way to get fit and healthy and do something positive for our environment? Register for Bike to Work Week!

You can register as an individual rider now then join a team--or start a team--later if you like. It's quick, easy, free and fun to take part.

Check out <http://www.biketowork.ca/nanaimo/event-info> for event and registration info.

## **MEND PROGRAM (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it!)**

This Spring the City of Nanaimo is offering a fun, FREE program that empowers children and their families to become fitter and healthier. MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it!) is a program for families with children ages 7 to 13 who are looking to lead a healthier lifestyle. Families learn about healthy eating and physical activity and parents get a chance to speak to other parents about issues such as how to deal with picky eating, too much screen time, and share healthy recipe ideas.

Families who complete the program will receive free passes to the recreation centres in Nanaimo to help them continue on their path to achieving a healthier lifestyle.

For more info or to register contact Kathy Gonzales, [mend@nanaimo.ca](mailto:mend@nanaimo.ca), 250-756-5288.

## **Central Island Healthy Lifestyles: Shapedown BC**

– is a FREE family-based support for kids ages 6-17 and their families ready for a healthier lifestyle. Through age-based workshops and individualized support, our team helps families make positive changes in eating habits, activity level, parenting skills and self-esteem. Our team includes a dietitian, social worker, fitness instructor, and physician. Please call 250-755-7955 for further information.

## **OUT IN SCHOOLS YOUTH SHORT FILM CONTEST!**

We are pleased and excited to announce RAH! The Out in Schools Youth Short Film Contest.

We're looking for BC youth aged 12-19 who are interested in telling incredibly creative and impactful

stories through film. We believe that film is an important tool that allows us to celebrate the complex and diverse experiences of LGBT2Q+ youth and also challenge transphobia, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.

Use your smart phone, digital camera or any other device to create films and submit to us before **May 20th, 2016**. Film submissions will be reviewed by youth jury and the winners will be screened at the Vancouver Queer Film Festival in August 2016.

We've partnered with Reel Youth, so all entries into RAH! will also be submitted into the Reel Youth Film Festival for possible screenings at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

For more information about the Out in Schools program, the RAH Youth Short Film Contest, and to book an Out in Schools presentation, visit [www.outinschools.com](http://www.outinschools.com) or contact Brandon Yan, Program Coordinator, at [brandon@outonscreen.com](mailto:brandon@outonscreen.com) or 604-844-1615

## **Bike to School Event: May 30- June 5, 2016.**

Want a fun way to get fit and healthy and do something positive for our environment? Register for Bike to School/ Work Week. This annual event supports a safe, fun cycling experience. The event celebrates active transportation to work, school, or play and participants have an opportunity to see that cycling is great option for everyday transportation.

Students, families and staff members are invited to take part as part of the Hammond Bay Elementary Team. We will be tracking number of trips, distances, calories burned and greenhouse gases saved. Every rider is eligible for prizes! For further questions or to sign up on the team, please contact Cheryl Headey at [cheadey@gmail.com](mailto:cheadey@gmail.com) or check out the website: <https://www.biketowork.ca/nanaimo>.