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School Year 2015/2016  
Issue #5 January 2016

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## **Principals Message**

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you all had a wonderful and restful holiday, and wish you the very best for the New Year.

January has already been a very busy month for the students. Not only are exciting things happening in the classrooms, but we also have activities in the morning before school, at lunch time and afterschool. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and staff for giving of their time to volunteer to coach and/or run clubs for our students. Your participation in our school is very much appreciated. For a sampling of activities, clubs and events happening in January and February, please read through the remainder of this newsletter.

Foundation Skill Assessments have begun for Grade 4 and 7 students. This assessment is mandated by the Ministry of Education and provides a snapshot of how your child is progressing in their learning. If you have questions about the FSA, please don't hesitate to contact me.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the educational program of your student, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-758-5711. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Christine Bohm*

## **Student Lates**



We are noticing an increasing amount of students arriving late to school. We would like to remind parents/guardians that school begins promptly at 8:35 am. Students arriving consistently late disrupt the instruction already taking place and are missing key pieces of information for the day. Please help us set your child up for success by arriving on time. All students arriving late must report to the office to receive a late slip. In case of emergency, it is important that we have an accurate attendance.

## **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.

## **Curriculum Implementation Days**

January 29 and May 16 are Curriculum Implementation Days. These days were included in the local school calendar as per the direction of the Ministry of Education, for teachers, educational assistants and administrators to explore the new curriculum. Please note that the schools will be closed to students on these two days.

## **Course Selection for Grade 7**

It is that time of year again. Counselors from NDSS will be visiting our Grade 7 students on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:35 am for an information session and course selection. Please ensure that your child is present for this very important talk. Course Selection sheets are due back to the office by Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We will forward them to NDSS.

If your child is not attending NDSS for Grade 8, please contact the secondary school of your choice for their registration information.

## **FSA Assessments**

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT 2015-16  
GRADE 4 and 7:

In January and February, **all Grades 4 and 7 students in British Columbia** will be taking the provincial Foundations Skills Assessments (FSAs) in Reading Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy. This year, the FSAs will be administered between Monday, January 11 and Friday, February 19.

Each of the three assessments has two components – a written component and an online component. A ‘walk-through’ of the assessment is available on-line at:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sample\\_tests.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sample_tests.htm)

It can also be accessed via the Parents Page on the School District website.

The FSAs have been administered every year since 1999 and they provide a provincial, system-wide measure of achievement for elementary students. These tests provide a snapshot of information that tells parents, teachers and schools in each district across the province how well students are doing in reading, writing and numeracy. The assessments are based on the learning outcomes of the curriculum and the results help educators plan for improving student achievement.

### **The tests are mandatory for all Grades 4 and 7 students.**

The few exceptions include: students with IEPs documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance in reading, writing or numeracy and who cannot meaningfully participate in all or part of the assessment, even with adaptations,

- students with IEPs who would need extensive adaptations or who would need such extended periods of time as to create a hardship for the individual student,
- English-as-a-Second Language students who have not yet reached a level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses.

The FSA results do not make up part of a student's report card marks, but parents may wish to discuss the results with their child's teacher. Individual tests and results will be sent home to parents once they are returned to the school.

For more information about the FSAs, visit the Ministry of Education's website at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>

### **Satisfaction Survey 2015-16**

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in 2016 the Satisfaction Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents, and all school staff. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey). Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. All that is required is a logon number that the school will provide to participants. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site, without a logon number.

The e-survey site will be open in the Spring. More information will be coming home shortly about logon numbers.

### **National Literacy Week**



The last week in January is National Literacy Week. Our annual Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.) will take place at school on January 28<sup>th</sup>! Students are invited to come to school in the pajamas for a comfortable day of reading initiatives. Thank you to PAC for providing hot chocolate and cookies to all of our students to celebrate literacy at Ecole Hammond Bay.

Mme. Lou will be also awarding literary prizes on Thursday the 28th. Make sure you enter into the reading contest!

Looking for some fun ideas to inspire your time with family and to set the stage for great things to come:



ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together. Learning can happen at any time. Practicing literacy together every day has tremendous benefits for both children and parents. Here are some great ways to get started:

1. Read a "wake up" story in the morning (after reading your bedtime story the night before).
2. Search online for fun places to go in your community. Pick out a spot for your next family day trip.
3. Make up a new recipe together and post it online.
4. Tell knock-knock jokes together while doing the dishes.
5. Create a story with your family: take turns writing one sentence at a time, then read the whole story aloud when you're done.
6. Write a review of a book you read together as a family. Send it to the author through email or snail mail.
7. Organize a book swap at your school or with your friends.
8. Track your trip to school, the park, and the grocery store on a map. Find a different route to take to each place.
9. Learn to play a musical instrument. What about the ukulele?
10. Write a note to include in a grown-up's lunch – ask them to write back!
11. Make a popsicle stick model with your family.
12. Write your names graffiti-style using chalk on your sidewalk – you may need to shovel first!
13. Play a board game together.

14. Look up the words to your favorite song online. Have a sing-off with your friends!
15. Count how many steps it takes to get from your bedroom to your kitchen. Find out who in your family has the most steps to a snack.



**Upcoming School Events Jan/Feb**

Jan 24-30	National Literacy Week
Jan 25	Gr 7 Course Selection for NDSS
Jan 27	Gr 2 Skate / Gr 4-5 Mt Washington / Monthly Assembly
Jan 28	Gr 7 Course Selection sheets due / French Immersion Lottery 6pm @ DAC Conference Room
Jan 28	PJ & Literacy Day / Hot Lunch
Jan 29	Pro D Day (classes not in session)
Feb 1-3	Valogram sales at lunch and after school
Feb. 4-5	Science Fair (Primary/Intermediate)
Feb 8	BC Family Day – schools are closed
Feb 12	Gr 4 Day at the Symphony / Valogram Delivery / Hot lunch
Feb 15	PAC meeting @ 7pm
Feb 19	Spirit Day / Gr 3 Swim to Survive
Feb 22-23	District Pro D (classes not in session)
Feb 24	Anti-Bullying Day – Pink Shirt Day
Feb 26	Hot Lunch

**Student Council**

Thank you for supporting the student council. Our next project will be Val-o-grams for Valentine’s Day and a fundraiser for healthy hearts. Stay tuned for more information coming home with your child. Thank you to Mme. Natascha and Mme. Williams, and all of the students who regularly participate in Student Council. We appreciate all of your hard work and leadership.



**Sports**

Volleyball Season is beginning to wrap up. Pee Wee Boys and Girls Teams have completed their season. Well done boys and girls! Both teams won almost every game. Your coaches/sponsors were impressed with your progress. The Bantam Boys and Girls Teams have moved on to participate in the Playoffs. Thank you to all the coaches and teacher sponsors for volunteering your time and expertise.

Basketball Season begins immediately following Volleyball. Teams are starting to be created. Thank you to



parents, grandparents, and community members who have volunteered to help coach. The teacher sponsors will be in touch shortly to organize practice times. Permission slips will follow.

**Science Fair**

We are once again having the Science Fair for our students. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their interest in all things Science. Due to the large number of students participating again this year, we have decided to hold the Science Fair over two days: February 4<sup>th</sup> for Primary (K-3) students and February 5<sup>th</sup> for Intermediate (4-7) students. Just a note to visitors: the exhibition will be closed for both recesses and during student eating time.



**Grade 4s at the Symphony**

School District 68 in partnership with the Vancouver Island Symphony is providing Grade 4 students a unique opportunity to experience the magic of the Symphony on stage in a theatre, at no cost to families. "My Symphony" will be presented February 12<sup>th</sup> to the students. In addition, a Symphony Musician will be visiting Hammond Bay on February 9<sup>th</sup> to perform for our Grade 4 students, as well as provide them with the opportunity to explore various instruments and answer any questions.

**Grade 3 Swim to Survive**

Grade 3 students will be participating again this year in the Swim to Survive program. This free program educates our young people as to how to be in the water safely and prevent accidental drowning. There are three (3) pool sessions and one (1) in class session of instruction. Permission slips will be coming home shortly. For more information, please contact your child’s teacher.

**Maple Sugar Festival**

Once again, the students of Hammond Bay (Gr1-7) are invited to participate in the Cabanne à Sucre/Maple Sugar Festival, March 1<sup>st</sup>. This year the event will be happening at Ecole Hammond Bay. Students will get to learn about French-Canadian culture while enjoying a performance and participating in many activities. Thank you to the Association Francophone de Nanaimo for hosting this event and M. Fortin (French Immersion Resource Teacher) for organizing SD68 participation.

**Theatre One Production**

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Grades 5-7 are invited to the Port Theatre for a Theatre One production of “Boo!” Theatre One is featuring the Sursaut Dance

Company from Sherbrooke, Quebec. Permission slips will be coming home in February.



### Dressing for winter

We would like to remind parents that we expect our students to go outside to play during our recess breaks. This is a healthy activity. Thank you for sending your children to school prepared for the cold, wet winter conditions.

It is also helpful for students to have spare clothing available at school in case they get wet or fall in the mud.

### School Newspaper

Once again we will be offering Intermediate students the opportunity to learn about journalism and the media industry through an extra-curricular activity: The School Newspaper. Interested students will be asked to sign up to be a part of the newspaper team. Meetings will be held on Mondays at lunch recess in the computer lab, starting February 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to Mrs. Therriault for bringing her expertise as a professional editor to our students.

### Drama Club

Mrs. Andruski-Collins is currently working with an enthusiastic group of intermediate students, planning and preparing to offer Drama Club for primary students. Meeting dates and times will be announced shortly.

### Yoga for Primary

We are currently offering Yoga for primary students every Thursday at lunch recess. Planned and led by some of our Grade 7 student leaders, our younger students are learning that yoga is lots of fun, while also being good for the body.



### Colouring Club

Mme. Lou is currently hosting the second session of the Colouring Club. Grade 3 and 4 students, who have signed up, have been invited up the library at lunch recess on Tuesdays for conversation and colouring. Mme. Lou has had more than 50 students signed up for the Colouring Club so far this year!

### Yo-yo Club

For the past few months intermediate students have been meeting every Tuesday at lunch recess to practice their yo-yoing skills and learn new tricks.

The students will be showing off their talent at our upcoming monthly assembly. Thank you to Mme. Dominique for sponsoring.

### Grade 6/7 Card Club

Over the past few weeks M. Kevin has been inviting students at lunch recess into his classroom to learn the intricacies of “Magik”, a card game. Thank you to M. Kevin for hosting this fantastic club. The students had lots of fun.

### District Policy for School Closures on Snow Days

It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall or ice.



If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.



We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca), and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.

**We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.**



### PAC News

Welcome to Jennifer Marks, who is assuming the Treasurer position from Mariah Patterson.

Have you purchased your tickets for the Clippers’ Cheer Off! Event on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, please contact the PAC directly at [ecolehammondbay@gmail.com](mailto:ecolehammondbay@gmail.com)

PAC will be holding their monthly meeting on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the school.

### MEND - free program

This January 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, 250-756-5288.

**Gary Anaka – Understanding the Teenage Brain – January 26, 2016**



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## **Local School Calendar 2015-2016**

<b>Friday, January 29</b>	Non-Instructional Day
<b>Monday, February 8</b>	BC Family Day
<b>Monday, February 22</b>	Non-Instructional Day (District Pro D Day)
<b>Tuesday, February 23</b>	Non-Instructional Day (School-based Pro D Day)
<b>Friday, March 11</b>	Last Day of Classes before Spring Vacation
<b>Monday, March 28</b>	Easter Monday
<b>Tuesday, March 29</b>	School re-opens after Spring Break
<b>Friday, May 13</b>	Non-Instructional Day
<b>Monday, May 16</b>	Non-Instructional Day
<b>Monday, May 23</b>	Victoria Day
<b>Thursday, June 30</b>	Administrative Day – Schools Close