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School Year: 2016-2017
Issue #4 – December 2016

Principal: Christine Bohm
Vice-Principal: Sharyn Andruski-Collins
Secretary: Susan Clark
Secretary: Marina Lockhart

Principal's Message



We have had a busy month! Thank you to all the Divisions' staff and students, parents, Choir, and Mrs. Andruski-Collins for the wonderful Winter Concert. The talent of our youngsters is amazing!

Thank you to PAC, Grade 7 parents, M. Kevin, and Mme. Danielle for organizing and leading the fun-filled Festive Fun Night. With approximately 100 students participating, activities included a scavenger hunt, crafts and a movie.

Thank you to Student Council and Ecole Hammond Bay staff for organizing all of the fun Winter activities throughout the month of December. We are still looking forward to Snowflake Day, Ugly Winter Sweater Day, Crazy Winter Hair Day and PJ Day.

Thank you also to our parent coaches and teacher sponsors for donating their time and volleyball expertise to our teams. We are looking forward to a fabulous season end in January.

Ecole Hammond Bay would like to welcome Andreanne Bergeron, our French language monitor. Mme. Bergeron will be with us until February, working in classrooms with students and teachers to continue to develop French language skills.

We would also like to welcome M. Palmer to the Student Services Team. M. Palmer will be working alongside Mme. Jacqueline and Mme. St-Pierre, supporting student learning needs. We would also like to congratulate Mme. Payne on her appointment to Acting Vice Principal at Ecole Hammond Bay from January to June 2017.

It is with saddened hearts that we say goodbye to Mrs. Andruski-Collins, who is retiring at the end of the month. Mrs. Andruski-Collins has been an integral part of the school during her tenure as Vice Principal. Although we will miss her, we wish her all the very best for her retirement.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!

Christine Bohm

Mrs. A's Corner

I would like to take this time to thank the Parent Advisory Council of Hammond Bay for four and a half wonderful years. With your support, our school has been able to initiate many projects including the African Drumming Program and the upper courtyard project, furnished by the PAC Vision Fund. We really enjoy our outdoor space!

My personal vision in working with schools is to create a safe and happy environment, where students and their families feel a sense of belonging. When our students are happy and connected to their daytime environment, they play well with others, enjoy learning, develop tenacity and resiliency and eventually come up with new ideas and ways to lead others. Student leadership at Hammond Bay has grown immensely and we are very proud of the students in our school.

The educational staff at Hammond Bay care deeply about our students. Projects to enhance social development of students have been supported by everyone, and for that I am grateful. Outdoor games, an ongoing initiative, has provided students with ways to have fun during recess. Girl Group, Skip Club, Drama Club, C2, the Faces Project, Homework Club, Student Council, Newspaper Club, and a loom Club offer our students many choices. Intermediate students participate in NETPEA competitive sports, and our staff coaches and sponsors teams during each season.

I would like to thank everyone for the most recent Winter Concert. Our staff created a delightful showcase. It was a real treat to have all fourteen divisions on the program.

In just a few short days, I will be departing from Hammond Bay. I would like to donate my piano to the music programme at our school. During classes, students often perform their pieces and compositions and I would be very pleased if this practice could continue.

Thank you everyone! Have a wonderful festive season!

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 for more information.



Student Council

Student council held a bake sale Friday, December 16th to help support health initiatives in developing countries. They raised over \$550.00 for the WE Village Campaign. Thank you to all the student council members, parents, and teacher advisors who helped make the event such as success.

Band Concert - December 20th

Please join us for the Grade 6-7 Band performance at 1:00 pm on December 20th in the gym. Students will be performing for their peers in an afternoon concert. The choir will also be performing a short program.

Information about Kindergarten Registration for 2017/2018

The application period for French Immersion for the 2017/2018 school year for Kindergarten and Grade 1 French Immersion will begin through online registration from **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 8:00am until Tuesday, January 31, 2017**. Student selection will once again be determined by lottery, with parents being notified by **Friday, February 3, 2017**.

Detailed information is available at www.sd68.bc.ca.

If you have a child currently attending Ecole Hammond Bay and have another entering into Kindergarten in September 2017, please email Mme. Bohm (cbohm@sd68.bc.ca) your child's name. You must also complete the online registration for your incoming child to guarantee their spot. For more information, please contact Mme. Bohm directly. Thank you.

FSA Assessments: FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT 2016-17 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 9 and Friday, February 17.

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

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.

Parents can request that the Principal excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are those which are unforeseen, unexpected, and significantly disruptive and beyond a student's control. If this applies to your child, you should contact Mme. Bohm directly to discuss the details. 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 on or before.

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



School Closure

If schools are closed due to snow, or any other weather-related problems, announcements will be on local radio stations (WOLF 106.9 FM and WAVE 102.3 FM) by 7 a.m. on the day of the closure. Please do not call the radio station – tune in and listen for the announcements, which will be made on a regular basis. In addition, the district will post the information on the district's website (www.sd68.bc.ca), Twitter and Facebook, unless there are technical problems or a power outage.

Download the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools mobile app on your Apple or Android device. Make sure to allow notifications to receive the most up-to-date information from your child's school or from the district.

Youtube video: <https://youtu.be/qCsQBHN15SU>

Apple App Store:

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/nanaimo-ladysmith-public-schools/id1020688988?mt=8C>

Android Play Store:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kbf.app16117272>



Library News

Bonjour,

A big thank you to the PAC for once again organizing our Scholastic Book Fair. Through this event, our library acquired many new books. We are very grateful for your dedication and support.

Please take a moment to scan your bookshelves at home for overdue books. Having books returned every week helps keep our library running smoothly and allows students to borrow books on a regular basis.

Our library schedule is as follows:

Tuesdays: M. Kevin, Mme Kathleen, Mme Monica, Mme Anneli

Wednesdays: M. Curtis, Mme Linda S., Mme Danielle, Mme Kim, Mme Tanya

Thursdays: M. Raynald, Mme Kelly, Mme Natascha, Mme Lynda W., Mme Mirela

Wishing all students, staff and parents a wonderful winter break full of reading and relaxation.

Bonne lecture!

Mme Alison

National Literacy Week

The week of January 23-27 is National Literacy Week. Help us celebrate the reading achievements of our students! Encourage reading at home in both French and English, while we do the same at school. Our week of reading activities culminates on Friday, January 27th with our annual “Drop Everything and Read” campaign.

A Day at the Symphony

Grade 4 students are invited to take part in the “Day at the Symphony” on February 17th. This is an opportunity to visit the Symphony, see them play and to have an interactive experience with the artists and their instruments. Permission slips will be coming home in January.

Kindergarten Screener

On January 12th, Island Health will be visiting our school to offer their in-school health services to our Kindergarten students. Vision, Hearing and Dental Screening will take place. The results of the screeners will be sent home to parents. For more information, please contact the Nanaimo/Ladysmith School Health Team at 250-755-3337.

Grade 3 Swim to Survive

Every year the Grade 3 students participate in this important program designed to teach children how survive in the water. There are three pool dates (January 26nd, February 2nd and 9th). This program is free and is offered to all Grade 3 students in the District. Permission slips will be distributed in January.

Fine Arts Performance

Upcoming in January, we will be hosting the musical trio *Infinitus*. *Infinitus* uses instrumental music to “engage every audience member with their beatboxing arrangements of well-known classics, popular music and original compositions”. Thank you to PAC for supporting these wonderful fine arts performances from Artstarts.

Dressing for winter

I 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.

Sports - Basketball

As the Volleyball season draws to a close, basketball season is beginning to be prepared. If you are interested in coaching basketball, please contact Mme. Bohm at cbohm@sd68.bc.ca or at the school at 250-758-5711.

Upcoming School Events – Dec/Jan

- Dec 16 Student Council – We Bake for Change – bake sale / Hot Lunch
- Dec 19 Snowflake Day
- Dec 20 Ugly Winter Sweater Day
- Dec 21 Student Council: Crazy Holiday Hair Day
- Dec 22 School Wide Assembly
- Dec 23 PJ Day
- Jan 9 Last Day before Winter Break
- Jan 9 Schools Re-Open
- Jan 9 Applications for French Immersion become available
- Jan/Feb FSA for Grades 4 & 7 begin
- Jan 11 Popcorn Day
- Jan 13 Hot Lunch
- Jan 31 Deadline for Applications for French Immersion
- Jan 26 School Wide Assembly
- Jan 27 Hot Lunch
- Feb 3 Lottery Draw for Kindergarten and Grade One - parents will be notified

PAC News

Did you know that PAC has a Facebook page? Please 'like' us at 'Ecole Hammond Bay PAC' for parent info and reminders of activities.

The December PAC meeting has been rescheduled for December 19th due to the school closure day on the 12th.

Next PAC meeting will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017 in the staff room.
Joyeux Noel!!



February 13	B.C. Family Day
February 20	District PRO D Day
February 21	District PRO D Day
March 17	Last day before Spring Break
April 3	School Re-opens
April 14	Good Friday
April 17	Easter Monday
May 12	Non-Instructional Day
May 22	Victoria Day
June 29	Last Day of School
June 30	Schools are closed

Kerri Isham is an award-winning educator (Options for Sexual Health, 2015) with a passion for teaching and sharing her knowledge with people of all ages. After nearly 15 years teaching she saw the need for a more comprehensive sexual health education. She created Power Up Workshops to help educate our kids about their bodies and healthy relationships.

She offers classroom lessons, professional development, speaking engagements, parent support, and individual client services. For more helpful tips and booking information please [visit my website](#).

I started my newsletters last February (2015). Did you miss one? Don't worry, I've also posted the same information on [my blog](#). Same great information, just a little different format.



ZingerBug.com

Local School Calendar 2016-2017

- December 23 Last day before Winter Vacation
- January 9 School Re-opens