



1025 Morningside Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6C3
Telephone: 250-758-5711
Website: <http://hb.schools.sd68.bc.ca>
School Year 2016/2017
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Principal: Christine Bohm
Vice-Principal: Kelly Payne
Secretaries: Susan Clark
Marina Lockhart

Principal's 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.

We have a new Interim Reporting Order in place this year. The "report card" will look different. The Mid-Year Snapshot Written Report will be coming home on February 10th. The written comments and a sliding scale are the two important components of this document. There will be no letter grades provided on this reporting document. For questions or concerns about your child's learning progression, please speak to the classroom teacher directly. If you would like to comment about the new format currently being used in School District 68, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will also forward your comments to the School District. I look forward to hearing from you.

Christine Bohm

Vice Principal's Message

What a chilly return we have had from Christmas vacation. I hope everyone rested and took some time to be with family and friends over the holidays. Although it is getting a bit warmer, students should make sure to always have proper attire to stay warm and dry while at school. As I get to know my new position at Hammond Bay, I am thankful for all the support and patience from staff and parents. I will be trying to get outside more in the morning

and after school so please come say hi and introduce yourself as I attempt to meet more of our Hammond Bay families.
À bientôt,

Kelly Payne

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.

Checking In at the Office

We would ask all parents to please check in at the office for a Visitor's badge prior to going to classrooms. Teachers have established routines with students, and sometimes unexpected parent drop ins can be disruptive. Forgotten items can be dropped off at the office.

We would also ask parents to allow their child(ren) to come into the building with their peers without adult accompaniment at the morning bell. If parents wish to speak to the teacher, please put a note in your child's planner or drop a note off at the office. Teachers are busy in the mornings preparing for their day of learning with your child(ren).

Course Selection for Grade 7

It is that time of year again. Counselors from NDSS will be visiting our Grade 7 students on Wednesday, February 15th at 8:45 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 Friday, February 17th. 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.

NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR 2017-2018



Registration Information

**A New Way to Register for School
2017/2018**

A new convenient and streamlined online process to register your child in
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools

Register Online 

Online registration will begin Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 8 a.m. PST.

Kindergarten
French Immersion
Late French Immersion
Departure Bay Eco School
Secondary Academies
School Transfer

To register online you will need the following:

- An email address
- Snapshot or scan showing proof of your child's age and citizenship (e.g. birth certificate, passport, care card, etc.)
- Snapshot or scan showing proof of BC residency (e.g. driver's license, utility bill, mortgage document, etc.)

Register @ www.sd68.bc.ca

For more information email: ereg@sd68.bc.ca

Registration is online only

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 2016-17

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.

In the Spring of 2017, 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. 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.

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 16 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

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.



Upcoming School Events Jan/Feb

Jan 23-27	National Literacy Week
Jan 25	Volleyball Playoffs
Jan 26	Infinitus Performance / Gr 3 Swim to Survive / Monthly Assembly
Jan 27	DEAR - Literacy Day / Hot Lunch
Feb 2	Gr 3 Swim to Survive/ Jung Kaadee performance
Feb 2	Lottery Night
Feb 7	Skip Day
Feb 9	Gr 3 Swim to Survive
Feb 13	BC Family Day – schools are closed
Feb 14	Valentine’s Day – Hammond Bay Hosting Dance for Immersion Schools / Basketball season begins
Feb 17	Gr 4’s at the Symphony
Feb 20-21	District Pro D (classes not in session)
Feb 24	Gr 4-7 Port Theatre / Hot Lunch
Feb 28	School Wide Assembly

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! 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.



Library

Bonjour!

École Hammond Bay is proud to be participating in Family Literacy Week (January 23-27), an initiative that encourages families to engage in reading and other literacy activities together every day. The following are a few of the activities that will be facilitated at our school.

Family Literacy Challenge: Our 15-Day Family Literacy Challenge kicks off Monday, January 23rd. Students and their families are encouraged to read and/or engage in literacy activities for 15 consecutive days. They will be provided with calendars on which to record their activities, as well as handouts providing activity suggestions. Students who return their completed and signed calendars after the challenge period will have their names entered into a draw for prizes.

Book Drive: From January 23rd to February 3rd, we will be collecting gently used books for Literacy Central Vancouver Island, which sells used books to support their free literacy tutoring programs. Books for children and adults are appreciated. Please drop off your books in the bin located in the school entrance area.

Library Open House: On the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Family Literacy Week, students and parents are welcome to visit the library from 2:30-3:00 pm to peruse the bookshelves, read together and have their photo taken (on parents' cameras) in our photo booth.

Book Character Day: On Wednesday, January 25th, students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character.

DEAR Day: On Friday, January 27th, students will participate in DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). As the name suggests, students will drop what they are doing to read a book of their choice in their classrooms. Thank you to PAC for sponsoring this wonderful event!

For more information on Family Literacy Day, please visit <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy>

Bonne lecture!

Mme Alison

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 17th to the students.

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 have been sent home and the program will begin at the end of the month. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

DARE

Grade 5 students will be once again offered the DARE program presentation. Constable Wilson has kindly offered his time and expertise to present this important program about healthy relationships and alcohol and drug awareness. Information letters will be sent home at the end of the month of January.

Skip Day

In support of Heart and Stroke month, we are once again organizing Skip Day. Classes are invited to the gym for 15 minutes of vigorous exercise to promote Healthy Heart initiatives. Appropriate footwear, comfortable clothing and a water bottle required for full participation in this important event.

NDSS Drama Production

The Grade 4-7 students have been invited to attend the NDSS Drama Production of "All Shook Up" at the Port Theatre on February 24th. Permission slips will be coming home at the beginning of February.

Anti-Bullying Day

We are encouraging all students and staff to wear pink on February 22nd for the annual Anti-Bullying Day event.

We are also pleased to offer a Healthy Relationships presentation for students in Grade 5, 6 and 7. Constable Wilson will be joining us on February 22nd to present online safety and the importance of building positive and healthy relationships.

Filming, Photography and Student Privacy

There are a variety of school events or activities that take place during the year and there is no better way to document these events by taking photos or videos. However, we must still be mindful of our student's privacy.

A parent wishing to film or photograph students and then post these images to a website (i.e. Facebook/Twitter/YouTube/Vimeo) must have signed permission for the students (you may have already received a copy of a photo/video consent form in the past) before posting their

image online. To do so without signed permission is a violation of BC privacy legislation.

While the responsibility lies solely with the person taking the photo or video, the district wants to take this opportunity remind all parents and guardians to remain respectful of everyone's privacy.



Dressing for Outside

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

We are always welcoming new Intermediate students the opportunity to learn about journalism and the media industry through an extra-curricular activity: The School Newspaper. We have currently over 30 journalists involved. Thank you to Mrs. Therriault for bringing her expertise as a professional editor to our students.



Colouring Club

Mme. Alison is currently hosting the second session of the Colouring Club. Students who have signed up, have been invited up the library at lunch recess on Wednesdays for conversation and colouring.

Activities at Lunch for students

We will be offering drop in activities at lunch recess throughout the spring months. Students are encouraged to listen to the morning announcements for the latest activity on offer for drop in.

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, 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

There will be no PAC meeting for February. We will meet again on March 6th at 7 pm. If you have any questions about any program funded by PAC or the hot lunch program, please contact PAC directly at ecolehammondbaypac@gmail.com

Local School Calendar 2016-2017

Monday, February 13	BC Family Day
Monday, February 20	Non-Instructional Day (District Pro D Day)
Tuesday, February 21	Non-Instructional Day (School-based Pro D Day)
Friday, March 17	Last Day of Classes before Spring Vacation
Monday, April 3	School re-opens after Spring Break
Friday, April 14	Good Friday
Monday, April 17	Easter Monday
Friday, May 12	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, May 22	Victoria Day
Friday, June 30	Administrative Day – Schools Close