



1025 Morningside Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6C3  
Telephone: 250-758-5711  
Website: <http://hb.schools.sd68.bc.ca>  
School Year 2017/2018  
Issue #5 January 2018

Principal: Christine Bohm  
Vice-Principal: Justin Mark  
Secretaries: Susan Clark  
Marina Lockhart

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## **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.

Mid-Year Progress Reports will be coming home to families on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. 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.

Student Council has sponsored a Coat Drive this month. Thank you to all of the donations by families. All clothing was delivered to the Salvation Army for those in need in our local community. Thank you to Student Council, Mme. Natascha, Mme. Kim and Mme. Jacqueline for spearheading this wonderful event.

Grade 4 students are off to the Vancouver Island Symphony this month! Permission slips have been sent home. For more information, please see the section entitled "Grade 4s at the Symphony" further on in this newsletter.

The National Family Literacy Week is coming up at the end of January. We have a number of fun activities planned which support literacy: Drop Everything and Read and Favourite Book Character Dress Day, just to name a few. Stay tuned for more information coming out shortly or visit our school's website.

NDSS Band is coming to Ecole Hammond Bay on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual visit to our school to promote the NDSS Band program for our Grade 7s, transitioning to secondary school.

Specific for Divisions 9 and 10, as students transition into the band program for the second half of the school year, Ecole Hammond Bay will be

hosting a Band Instrument Rental opportunity on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> in the Music Portable from 2:30-4:30 pm. For more information, please contact the Music/Band teacher, Mme. De Verteuil, directly.

Thank you to PAC for hosting the White Hatter: Digital Safety presentations for students and parents. The information provided was very current and very informative. For more information about the White Hatter, please visit their website at <http://www.personalprotectionsystems.ca/>

*Christine Bohm*

## **Vice Principal's Message**

It was fantastic to be back to our wonderful Ecole Hammond Bay community after a restful Christmas Break enjoyed with family and friends. It seems like the students returned well rested and ready to do their best. Just a reminder to students to make sure to bring appropriate footwear and clothes for outside play as the weather has been very wet and cold this January. I would also like to congratulate all the volleyball teams and their coaches for a terrific season and wish the teams that are competing in the playoffs good luck. February looks to be an exciting and busy month so I would like to remind all students to stay organized and to focus in your studies as this is such an important time for learning.

Kindest Regards

Mr. Mark

## **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.

**Course Selection for Grade 7**

It is that time of year again. Counselors from NDSS will be visiting our Grade 7 students in the coming weeks for an information session and course selection. Please ensure that your child is present for this very important talk (the date will be sent home). Course Selection sheets will be collected by the office and 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.

**Satisfaction Survey 2017-2018**

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.

During February, 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 February and closes at the end of April. More information will be coming home shortly with logon numbers.



**Upcoming School Events Jan/Feb**

Jan 22-29	National Literacy Week
Jan 22	Grade 4's at the Symphony/ Volleyball Playoffs
Jan 26	DEAR - Literacy Day / Hot Lunch
Jan 29	Monthly Assembly – Div 7 is presenting
Jan 30	Div 9 & 10 Band Instrument Rental in the Music Portable 2:30-4:30 pm
Jan 31	French Immersion Kindergarten Registration closes
Feb 6	Lottery Night (closed to the public)
Feb 12	BC Family Day – schools are closed
Feb 14	Valentine's Day / Jump Rope for Heart Day
Feb 19-20	District Pro D (classes not in session)
Feb 23	Gr 3 Swim to Survive starts
Feb 26	School Wide Assembly

**Student Council**

Welcome 2018! A new calendar year, new beginnings, new opportunities to do great things, and another occasion to celebrate our incredible students and the families and community that support them.

Our “WE Bake for Change” sale on December 15<sup>th</sup> was a HUGE success! Our goal was 12 goats for WE Villages at \$50/goat. At the end of the day, we had raised \$600! But we weren’t done! The Dhut Family in Grade 2 wanted to contribute enough money for us to be able to surpass our goal of purchasing 12 goats, and be able to buy 13 goats (a number of personal and cultural significance) – they gave a generous sum of \$50! By the time we came back to school on January 8<sup>th</sup>, someone somewhere had worked some magic as we had raised \$699.45! When we announced this to the students, they were understandably thrilled – almost 14 goats! At the end of the day, one of our Grade 6 council members arrived at the door with a small bag containing 45 cents. The moral of this story? No matter what you give or how much you give, you can always make a difference! Bravo École Hammond Bay!

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, our students began their coat drive, collecting new and gently used winter clothing and boots. The collection ran for one week and our front hallway was full! The council members sorted and packed over 30 large bags of clothing and boots. Mr.Bell (Grade 7 and Grade 3) generously offered to pick up and deliver the clothing to the New Hope Society downtown and we have since heard that the members there are completely overwhelmed at the

kindness and generosity of our students and their families.

Our next endeavor has already begun as our council members cut, decorate and embellish hearts for our annual Valogram Sale. Hearts will be on sale from January 29 – February 2 at lunch recess and after school. Each heart costs 50 cents and you can send one to any student/staff member at Hammond Bay. The hearts will have a chocolate or pencil attached and will be delivered on February 14<sup>th</sup> at lunch time by our very own cupids! All proceeds will be going to a local charity (breakfast program, food bank or SPCA) – the council has yet to vote on their choice. Thank you for your support!

Mme Natascha, Mme Kim, and Mme Jacqueline

## **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 are volunteering to help coach. The teacher sponsors will be in touch shortly to organize practice times. Permission slips will follow.



Jump Rope for Heart Day is coming up in February. Division 8 and 10 are organizing and hosting this activity to promote physical activity and healthy heart

## **Library News from Mme Jacqueline, your friendly Teacher Librarian!**

### **Curiosity, Creativity, Connection**

### **Curiosité, Créativité, Branché**

This month, students have been invited to participate in a Draw Your Own Comics Club on Tuesdays (for grades 2,3, 4) and Thursdays (for grades 5, 6, 7) at big recess. Student participation and enthusiasm has been amazing! So many students have signed up! I will likely run the club longer than I anticipated, due to the enthusiasm of the students. It's great for those rainy winter months!

In celebration of Family Literacy this month, parents and their pre-school children ages 3 and 4 are invited to Storytime in the library right after drop off Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning, 8:40-9:15. Since space will be limited,

please visit Madame Jacqueline in the Library to sign up. It's a great chance to get to know the library and to have fun with your child! This will take place for 2 weeks ONLY, but may be extended if there is ongoing interest!

Also in celebration of Family Literacy, we will have a Dress Up as Your Favourite Book Character on Thursday Feb 1. There will be a prize of a free movie ticket to Galaxy cinema, one for the most authentic and book characterish costume for primary and one for intermediate!

Feb. 1 is also World Read Aloud Day. Take a few minutes and read aloud to a favourite pet, stuffy, or as a whole family! Celebrate that you live in a place where books are freely available and literacy is the norm, rather than the exception!

Happy Reading! Bonne lecture!

Mme Jacqueline

## **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. An Education Series Concert will be presented January 22nd 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 will be sent home in the beginning of February and the program will begin at the end of the February. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

## **Jump Rope for Heart Day**

In support of Heart and Stroke month, we are once again organizing Jump Rope for Heart Day. Classes are invited to the gym on February 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Monetary donations will be encouraged but are not mandatory for student participation. All proceeds will be donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Thank you to Divisions 8 and 10 for organizing this event.



**Anti-Bullying Day**

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

**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.

**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**

There will be no PAC meeting for February. We will meet again on March 12th 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](mailto:ecolehammondbaypac@gmail.com)

**Local School Calendar 2017-2018**

Monday, February 12	BC Family Day
Monday, February 19	Non-Instructional Day (District Pro D Day)
Tuesday, February 20	Non-Instructional Day (School-based Pro D Day)
Friday, March 16	Last Day of Classes before Spring Vacation
Friday, March 30	Good Friday
Monday, April 02	Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 3	School re-opens after Spring Break

Friday, May 11	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, May 21	Victoria Day
Friday, June 29	Administrative Day – Schools Close



**Community Events:**

24/7 Spring Basketball Camps

Little Dribblers –  
Ages: Boys and Girls K-3  
Location: Uplands Elementary  
Dates: March 5, 12, April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7  
Time: Mondays 5:30-6:30pm  
Cost: \$60 (incl. t-shirt)

Girls Elementary Camp  
Ages: Girls Gr. 4-7  
Location: McGirr Elementary  
Day/Time: Mondays 6-7pm  
Dates: April 9,16,23,30, May 7, 14, 28  
Cost: \$60 (incl t-shirt)

Any questions or to register please email:  
[bball247@yahoo.com](mailto:bball247@yahoo.com)