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School Year: 2018-2019  
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Principal: Christine Bohm  
Vice-Principal: Justin Mark  
Secretaries: Susan Clark  
Marina Lockhart

## Principal's Message



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students on the progress made in their learning. It was a pleasure to read and sign everyone's Mid Year Written Progress Report. I would encourage our students to strive to continue their excellent progress for the remainder few months of the year.

We have had some beautiful art being displayed around the school from different classes over the past few months. It is always wonderful to see the exceptional pieces the students have created, and all should be very proud of their accomplishments. Well done!

The Ministry of Education is currently conducting a province-wide parent feedback survey. This survey includes: the use of the 4-point scale for reporting and assessment, student self-reflection of the core competencies, and providing ongoing communications of student learning. Please visit the school district website at [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca) (main page) to access the survey.

The Student Learning Survey for this school year have arrived. Students and parents of Grade 4 and 7 students, and staff have been asked to take part in the online survey. Information was sent home we are encouraging parents to participate. The staff use this information to make decision about next year. For more information, please contact the school office.

The Swim to Survive program will be offered again this year to Grade 7 students. The program will focus on drowning prevention, survival in water after an accidental fall in and understanding risk-taking behavior in youth around water activities. Students will be participating in three sessions: the first two at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and the final session at Westwood Lake. Permission slips have been sent home already. The first session is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout the months of February and March, there is much going on at Ecole Hammond Bay. Our students have and/or will participate in the following activities: Carnival Bataille de balle

de neige, Guerre des Tuques, Northern Games, Counter Measures Music presentation, Jazz Fest, Red Sky Performances, Maple Sugar Festival presentation, a First Nations Reconciliation presentation for our Grades 5-7 students, and Le Cirque...just to name a few.

Ecole Hammond Bay hosted the Pizza Gymboree for Preschoolers recently. It was wonderful to see all of the little folks. Thank you to StrongStart SD68 for organizing this event.

Welcome to Kindergarten is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. This event is put on by Ecole Hammond Bay staff to meet and learn about our incoming Kindergarten students, while giving them an opportunity to learn about us too! For more information, please contact the school office. A RSVP is required for this event.

Spring Break is coming up this month. Our last day before the break will be March 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be back in session on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and restful Spring Break.

*Christine Bohm*

## Vice Principal's Message

March has been a very busy month here at Ecole Hammond Bay. It feels like things are slowly starting to thaw out after our cold and snowy weather. I would like to congratulate our basketball teams on their hard work and wish them continued success in their seasons. I would also like to thank the students and staff who participated in our 2nd annual Northern Games for their fantastic positive energy in making this another amazing event. I am also very excited to announce that our school will be invited to participate in the Splash and Dash event on April 12 at Beban Park this year. In addition, Mountain Bike club will be offered to grade 3-7s this spring. I can't wait to get the spring program going. I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful spring break. I hope everyone gets the opportunity to recharge and come back ready to finish off the school year.

À bientôt,

Justin Mark



### **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.

### **Library**

Welcome March! We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday in the first week of March, so you can look forward to all things Dr Seuss! Please see your child's agenda or envelope for a reminder sheet of each day's theme.

**We will have Theodore Thursday on Thursday March 7**, so check out all those Pinterest ideas and come as a Dr. Seuss character: Fox in Socks, the Lorax, a Who, Sam I Am, or the Cat in the Hat, and so many others!

**February was a busy month**, marked by lots of celebrations of learning and many events assemblies. In the library we featured kindness and empathy, rights and freedoms. We marked Black History Month with the story of Viola Desmond, now featured on our Canadian \$10 bills, who stood up for civil rights in 1946 in Nova Scotia. As one student remarked, "We should not be bystanders, we should be upstanders." This theme was also part of our Pink Shirt/Anti-bullying/Anti-Taxage Day on Feb 27. In the library, we always strive to be a democratic space where everyone is equal, has equal access, and has the same opportunities to learn and express themselves.

**Did you know the library is not a "Shush zone"?**

**If you walk by the library you are likely to hear**

**students talking about books, making something or presenting something.**

**Speaking of rights and freedoms**, have you ever thought about how we are so blessed to live and learn where books are honoured and the right to read is upheld? **Freedom to Read week** is officially the last week of February, but in libraries, we celebrate it all year long. Freedom to Read challenges the idea of censorship. Many books have been challenged or even banned over the years. You may have even read some of

them: Fahrenheit 451, Shel Silverstein's A Light in the Attic, Todd Parr's The Family Book, Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, Maurice Sendak's Where the Wild Things Are, David Shannon's No, David, and many more. Come to the library and see these books.... if you dare!

### **Upcoming:**

**Spring Break!** Please gather up your library books to return to the library before the break. These points in the year are a good time for Mme Jacqueline to do inventory and make sure popular books are all back on the shelves for your reading after the break.

Of course, if you cannot imagine your break without an entire series to keep you going, come and see Mme Jacqueline to help you get your TBR pile (To Be Read!) organized.

**April is Poetry Month!** Drop into the library anytime and create a poem out of word magnets, make a black-out poem, or pick a poem to carry in your pocket on April 18, National Poem in Your Pocket Day. On this day, select a poem, carry it with you, and share it with others at schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, street corners, and on social media using the hashtag #pocketpoem.

April is also Celebrate Diversity Month. What can you do to honour diversity and teach your children that our differences make the world a richer place?

**Earth Day, April 22** - We will celebrate throughout the week with Earth-honouring books and crafts.

**LEGO Exposition in the Library** We have had many amazing creations brought to school and displayed in the library! Thank you to everyone who shared their creativity. Make sure you pick up your LEGO to take it home before the break.

**BookFest 2019** will be Saturday June 1 this year! An amazing day for children aged 5-13ish and their families is planned. Treasured favourites as well as new Canadian authors and illustrators will be visiting. Kit Pearson, Linda Bailey, Michael Kusugak, J Torres, Monique Gray Smith, Gabrielle Grimard, Jordan Stratford, Sally Williams and Nancy Vo will be featured. Check out [www.bookfest.ca](http://www.bookfest.ca) for more info and the Vancouver Island Children's Book Festival Facebook page. Students at Hammond Bay will be treated to a visit from an author or two the week before the Book Festival, with thanks to the PAC for funding these literacy events. More info to come!

**Regular Library Info**

**Open hours:**

**Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 - 3:00 \*I often stay until 4:00 or later! Need an emergency book? Come on up!**

**Book return days:** Tuesday for grade 7 and grade 1

Wednesday for Kinders, Mme. Anneli, grade 5/6, and 6/7

Thursday for grade 2, grade 3, grade 3/4, and 4

Friday for M. Palmer's class.

**Overdue Fees:** There are NEVER any late fees for overdue books! Please just encourage your child's growing personal responsibility to care for the books they borrow and return books as soon as they are finished.

**Many books or one at a time?** Some students get very excited about the possibility of taking out many books at once. Some can devour a novel in a day and need a stack of books... however, I would like to encourage you to help your child remember they can visit the Library Monday-Thursday to return and take out new books. Much better than a tower of books that can get lost over the course of a week or two.

**Damaged books:** If a book gets damaged - it happens! - you may receive a notice indicating the replacement cost. Some books are very new and popular - in this case we would ask you to send in the amount to cover a new copy. A school library consists of resources **to lend**. When books are damaged beyond repair, they need to be replaced. With a limited budget for re-purchasing, we ask that you help us with the cost of the replacement book. Thank you! Alternatively, take your child to re-purchase the book together... perhaps a more powerful lesson?

Bonne lecture! Happy Reading!

Madame Jacqueline

**Run Program at Neck Point**

We will be starting our spring running program at Neck Point. Classes will be invited to participate twice a week. This is great conditioning in preparation for our Track and Field season. Permission slips will be sent home in April.



**Sports**

As our NETPEA intramural sports program comes to an end for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents/guardians, teacher sponsors and the students for making this year of sports at Hammond Bay a fantastic experience for all!

**Track & Field**

During the month of April, students in Grades 3-7 will be once again signing up for Track & Field events. Our School Meet day is May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be asking for lots of parent volunteers to help us on this day at the Rotary Bowl. Permission slips will be sent home in April.

**Lates**

We are noticing lots of students (about 50 every day) arriving late for school. Late arrivals disrupt the learning already underway in the classrooms and put the late arrivals at a disadvantage. Please ensure that your child(ren) start the school day with everyone else – at 8:35 am. Thank you for your attention to this.

**When Children Should Stay Home from School**

During this time of year there are a number of colds and flus around. These can spread amongst others quite easily. For the health of the staff, students, and volunteers in the school, we ask that you take into consideration the following information. If your child has any of the following symptoms they should be kept home from school.

**Fever** - Keep your children home if they have a fever. Wait until children are fever-free before letting them return to school.

**Diarrhea/Vomiting** - Keep children home if they've vomited twice or more in the last 24 hours. They can return to school after symptoms clear up or your doctor says they're no longer contagious.

**Severe cough and cold symptoms** should keep kids home from school. A serious cough could be a sign of contagious conditions like whooping cough, viral bronchitis, or croup.

**Pinkeye** - is contagious, and children should stay home from school for the first 24 hours after treatment begins.

**Lost and Found**

Our Lost and Found bin is overflowing again. Please come and take what is yours. All items unclaimed will be sent to a local charity in April.



**Upcoming School Events Mar/Apr**

- Mar 4 Red Sky Performance
- Mar 6 Ready Set Learn 5-7pm
- Mar 11 Gr. 7 Parent Meeting 6pm
- Mar 11 PAC Meeting 7pm
- Mar 13 Le Cirque at Hammond Bay
- Mar 18 First Day of Spring Break
- Apr 1 School re-opens
- April 19 Good Friday – No School
- April 22 Easter Monday – No School

**Community News –**

**NCS – Basketball Camp – Spring Break**



Spring Break



SPRING BREAK



SPRING BREAK

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**Notice to School Districts re: Measles**



MHO Notice to School Districts re M