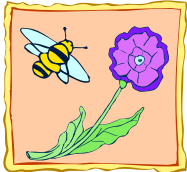




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School Year: 2018-2019
Issue #8 – April 2019

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

Principal's Message



This is an exciting time of year at Hammond Bay. We have so many exciting activities still on the horizon before the end of the year. We encourage all students to take part in the variety of options available.

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools recently launched the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Policy and Framework to honor and celebrate the teachings of the land and the First Nations while finding a balance between the traditional and the contemporary worlds we live and work in. For more information and to watch the accompanying video, please visit the School District's website at: www.sd68.bc.ca/media/gallery/cultural-celebration/

We will be having a staffing change coming up this Spring, as Mme. Jacqueline, our Teacher/Librarian, will probably be away for the remainder of our school year due to an injury. As soon as we have a replacement teacher, I will inform families. In the meantime, we would like to welcome Mme. Fontaine in the Library. We wish Mme. Jacqueline well in her recovery.

We will be starting our annual whole school Neck Point Runs in earnest this Spring, with a physical wellbeing focus. Every class is participating in a challenge to increase their fitness and stamina in preparation for the Track & Field season. **Running shoes are a must on all of our runs.**

Our School Track and Field date is May 15th. We will once again pair with Gabriola Elementary. This year Hammond Bay will be in charge of the field events. **Parent volunteers are needed for the day.** If you are interested, please complete the bottom portion of your child's permission slip and/or email me at cbohm@sd68.bc.ca. Permission slips will be coming home shortly.

Welcome to Kindergarten will take place on Thursday, April 25th in the morning. Registration begins at 8:45 am, with activities starting at 9 am. Thank you to the Grade 6 students who have volunteered to run our various stations, and to the PAC and staff who will be participating in this event.

The Student Learning Survey for 2019 ends this Friday, April 30th. If you are a parent of a student in Grade 4 and/or Grade 7, I would encourage you to complete the online survey. The data collected helps us plan our initiatives for the following year. For more information about the Student Learning Survey, please email me at cbohm@sd68.bc.ca or call the school office at 250-758-5711.

There are lots of activities coming up for Grade 7 students: NDSS School Tour visit, Swim to Survive, Camp Qwanoes. The information for each of these activities is coming home to parents over the next few weeks. NDSS is also hosting a Parent Information Night on April 16th at 6:30 pm. For more information about this event, please contact NDSS directly.

Our students will be participating in the Patati Patata competition this year. The school competition will take place on April 18th in our gym. Thank you to the Intermediate teachers for organizing this event.

Just a reminder to all parents that May 10th is a Professional Development Day for staff. Schools will be closed for students.

Christine Bohm

Vice-Principal's Message

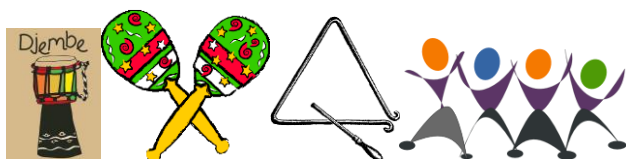
I hope our students and staff enjoyed a restful Spring Break. It was amazing to start April with such beautiful weather. I would like to take a moment to thank Mme. Natascha and Madame Kim for their organization and commitment to the student council. I would also like to take a moment to thank all of the student volunteers for their continued participation and leadership.

Congratulations to our basketball team players, coaches and sponsors for their excellent seasons. I am very excited that the Neck Point runs are starting up again and I would like to remind students to make sure they bring proper running footwear and attire. These runs provide a valuable training foundation for our upcoming track and field season. With the nicer weather arriving, the Ecole Hammond Bay mountain bike club will start up again for May and June

Finally, just a reminder to our students, as the weather improves and the school draws to an end to stay focused on their studies and to continue making Ecole Hammond Bay a safe and respectful environment for all.

Merci,

Justin Mark



Are you moving?

If you are planning to move away from the Nanaimo area or are transferring your children to another school next year, please advise the office as soon as possible. Your cooperation greatly assists us in determining our numbers and school organization for the 2019-2020 school year.

Class Placements for 2019-2020

Staffing for the next school year has yet to be finalized by the School District; however Hammond Bay staff will begin the process of student class placements in the last month of school.

The staff works carefully as a team to discuss the best placement for their students. We consider the following criteria when making these decisions;

- Gender balance
- Mix of academic ability levels
- Student learning style
- Teaching style
- Student's special needs
- Child and parent relationship with teacher
- Maturity level
- Work habits
- Physical and intellectual growth
- Contractual agreement
- Educationally relevant information from parents

The decision for placement is primarily based on the recommendation of the student's present teacher(s), the person(s) most familiar with their needs but according to the *School Act*, it is ultimately the Principal's decision and responsibility.

Parents may submit a letter to the Principal stating the type of learning environment you believe your child would need to be successful. **Please do not indicate a specific teacher**, but rather frame your comments in constructive and positive terms which highlight the educational merits for your child. Teachers will also be reading the letters. Please do not make an

appointment with the teacher or myself to discuss the content of your letter. **Only written requests to the Principal, submitted by May 24th, 2019, will be considered in the process.** In arranging new classes, we will endeavor to place students in the best educational setting. Please note that teacher assignments to specific classes will not be confirmed until late June, or even September. Thank you for your support and cooperation.



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.

Indoor Shoes are needed for the Gym

To reduce the amount of mud, rocks and other dirt in our gym, students are reminded that indoor shoes are required for PE. These should be runners, with non-marking soles.

After School Expectations

Hammond Bay School is located in an ideal setting. Students love to stay after school and play on the playground and in the surrounding forest. Only two school staff offer after school supervision (Front and Upper Playground) for 15 minutes after dismissal. Due to this limited level of supervision, I would like to thank parents for picking up their children promptly after dismissal. Students playing in the forest should be directly supervised by their parent or a parent designate. Unaccompanied students are not allowed in the forest. Please review expectations regarding "stranger safety" with your children. We often have strangers walking through our school grounds or walking in the forest on their way to Neck Point Park.

Spring/Summer Allergy Season

We have had many students come to the office complaining of seasonal allergies such as itchy/watery eyes etc. If your child has seasonal allergies, please stop by the office to complete a Medication Form and provide us with your child's allergy medication (Benadryl/Chloratrimon). This will save you a trip to the school with medication. Students must not keep medication in their backpack; it must be stored at the office.

Track and Field

Track and Field practices have now started in the students' PE classes.

Grade 3 to 7 students are invited to participate in our School Track and Field Meet on Wednesday, May 15th at the Rotary Bowl (9:30-1:45).

Permission slips will be going home soon. As always, we will be needing parent volunteers to help out with the events. If you are available, please complete the bottom portion of the permission slip or contact Mme. Bohm directly at 250-758-5711 or cbohm@sd68.bc.ca. We will be needing approximately 14-16 volunteers.



Dress Code

As in the past, we appreciate the fact that our students come to school appropriately dressed for our school activities and the weather. Please remember to have a pair of running shoes for PE at school if you are planning to wear sandals. **Flip Flops are not appropriate footwear for school.** T-shirt logos must be appropriate and shirts should cover the midriff and should not be off the shoulders. Clothing or jewelry that have references to drugs or alcohol may not be worn to school. Beach wear is not to be worn at school. Students will be asked to change or school clothing may be offered if alternative clothing is not available. Casual school wear is expected to be worn by all students.



Sports

As we wind up the Basketball season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent coaches, helpers, and teacher sponsors for their dedication and support to our teams of students. The Pee Wee teams have completed their season, and the Bantam team moved into playoffs. Congratulations to all the participating students on your spirit and enthusiasm! Well done!

Cougar/Bear Safety

In the spring, summer and fall, bear sightings in the vicinity of schools are fairly common and occasionally there is a sighting of a cougar. All sightings should be reported to 1-877-952-7277. Ask for the conservation officer on duty.

Below are a few basic safety rules with regard to cougars. More detailed information is available on the internet at www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/

- Never approach a cougar. Although cougars will normally avoid a confrontation, all cougars are unpredictable. Cougars feeding on a kill may be dangerous.

- Always give a cougar an avenue of escape.
- Stay calm. Talk to the cougar in a confident voice.
- Pick all children up off the ground immediately. Children frighten easily and their rapid movements may provoke an attack.
- Do not run. Try to back away from the cougar slowly. Sudden movement or flight may trigger an instinctive attack.
- Do not turn your back on the cougar. Face the cougar and remain upright.
- Do all you can to enlarge your presence. Do not crouch down or try to hide. Pick-up sticks or branches and wave them about.

Students walking to and from schools:

- Walk in groups.
- Stick to the roads – do not walk through bush.

Bike Safety

As summer approaches and the weather is getting better, here are a few bike safety rules to remember:



- Always wear a safety approved bicycle helmet.
- Always ride in view of your parent or guardian.
- Let you parent or guardian check that your bicycle is in good mechanical shape.
- Make sure your bicycle is safe and has reflectors, lights and a bell.
- Look both ways at intersections and make eye contact with drivers before proceeding.
- Give a warning as you approach walkers/runners to pass them.
- Watch closely for cars leaving driveways.
- Ride with traffic.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 12	Grade 7 visit NDSS Tour
April 16	Grade 7 parent night NDSS
April 18	Patati Patata
April 19	Good Friday
April 22	Easter Monday
April 23	Whole School/ Grade 7 Photo
April 25	Welcome to Kindergarten
	Grade 7 Swim to Survive
April 26	Assembly
May 2	Grade 7 Swim to Survive
May 10	Pro D Day
May 13-17	Healthamongus
May 15	School Track and Field
May 16	Tour of NDSS
May 20	Victoria Day

May 29 Zone Track & Field
May 31 Assembly
June 5 Gr 7 Swim to Survive
June 6 District Track & Field
June 20 Assembly
June 21 Gr7 Year End celebration
June 28 Last Day of school