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Vice-Principal: Kelly Payne
Secretaries: Susan Clark
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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 some staffing changes coming up. Firstly, we would like to welcome Mme. Natalie LeBlanc to Ecole Hammond Bay. Mme. LeBlanc is a French Language Monitor, who will be providing language enriching activities for our students. Mme. LeBlanc will be with us from March 6-May 29. Also, Mme. De Verteuil will be away for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Bamford will continue in the Music/Band assignment until June 30th. It is also a sad time for us as we say goodbye to Mme. Linda Simard, who will be retiring as of March 13th. We wish her all the very best in all her future endeavors. Welcome also to Mme. Wigmore who will be replacing Mme. Linda until the end of the school year.

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.

Ecole Hammond Bay hosted an Expansion Project presentation recently for parents/guardians and community members. Mr. Bakewell, Project Manager, presented the scope of the project, outlined a possible floor plan and discussed the redesign of the parking lot. Thank you to parents/guardians and community members who came and provided input. If you have questions about the expansion project, please do not hesitate to email the PAC Chair at ecolehammondbaypac@gmail.com or myself at cbohm@sd68.bc.ca.

We recently had the pleasure of inviting Buzz Cuivres to present to students as part of the Festival du Sucre (Maple Sugar Festival). It was an exciting performance! Thank you to Mme. Payne and the Nanaimo Francophone Association for organizing this event for us.

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 17th.

Ecole Hammond Bay will participate in the French Immersion Ready Set Learn on April 2nd at Ecole Quarterway. This is the first opportunity for our incoming Kindergarten students and preschoolers in our area to attend a School District 68/StrongStart event. The event will begin at 4:45 pm until 7:15 pm. More information about how to register will be coming out shortly.

Welcome to Kindergarten is scheduled for May 14th. 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! An invitation will be sent to all parents/guardians after Spring Break.

Track and Field for Grades 3-7 is sneaking up on us already. Our school Track and Field date is May 1st. Ecole Hammond Bay is partnering with Gabriola Elementary again this year at the Rotary Bowl, and it is our turn to time the running events. If you are interested and available to help on May 1st, please contact me at cbohm@sd68.bc.ca. Thank you for your cooperation and support, because without parent helpers, this event becomes very difficult to provide to students.

Spring Break is coming up this month. Our last day before the break will be March 13th and we will be back in session on March 30th. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and restful Spring Break.

Christine Bohm

Vice Principal's Message

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I can’t believe it is already March, but I am excited about our sunny days to come. Over the past months I have had the opportunity to see all the parents and volunteers who come to help support our community here at Hammond Bay School. I wanted to take a minute to thank all of you who drive, coach, distribute hot lunch, help in the library as well as in the classrooms, supporting our students learning. You are such valuable members of our community.

Basketball season is well under way and our teams are doing a great job practicing and working hard at their games. I wish you all luck during playoffs.

March break is also fast approaching. I know many of our families enjoy vacationing during this time of the year. I hope you all have a great break, enjoy some extra family time and do so safely.

À bientôt,

Kelly Payne



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.



When Children Should Stay Home from School

During this time of year there are several 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 keeping your child home from school until they are well again.** Please contact the school if your child has a contagious infection. A deep clean of the classroom may be required.

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 - 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.

Library

Dear Families,

Have you visited the Learning Commons yet with your child? I am always here after school, so come on up and have a look around. It’s a great time to ask questions and share your goals for your child’s reading.

With Spring Break coming soon, we are once again gathering books and doing inventory. Please round up all your library books lingering at home and in the car and send them back to school as soon as possible. Wondering which books your child has out? Please send an email to me at jkellam@sd68.bc.ca and I will email you their list.

Wondering if the Library Learning Commons accepts donations? Yes, we do! However, **please ensure the books have been published in the last 5-8 years (or are still relevant and popular i.e. yes to Harry Potter, no to Animorphs) and are in excellent condition.** If you have French non-fiction books at home that your children have outgrown or finished with, I encourage you to bring them to me to see if they fit our acquisitions policy.

We are always looking for the following types of books and series:

If you have these in French, that's even better!

- Wings of Fire (hugely popular right now!)
- Mercy Watson
- Amulet
- new novels for middle grades
- Harry Potter (ours are getting pretty ratty)
- Mini-souris
- Dragon Masters/Maitres des dragons
- hardcover Geronimo/Thea Stilton
- all Rick Riordan books
- Warriors series
- Land of Stories
- cookbooks for kids
- Minecraft/Roblox/Fortnite
- Superheroes
- Graphic Novels appropriate for ages 8 - 12

Dress up as a Book Character Day will be announced shortly. We will have it before Spring Break. Impress us with your costume skills! It is always so fun to see beloved book characters come to life in our school!

Please remember to put a large zip-lock bag in your child's backpack to keep their books clean and free of backpack damage.



Merci et bonne lecture!
Mme Jacqueline

Student Council

Student Council was able to raise over \$600 during our Val-O-Gram sales to send to Australia to help with wildfire relief. Thank you to all the students and families that helped contribute to this fundraiser.

Mme. Danica & Mme. Janelle
Teacher Advisors

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.



Sports

As our NETPEA intramural sports program comes to an end for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 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 1st. We will be asking for lots of parent volunteers to help us run the track events on this day at the Rotary Bowl. If you are available to help us at the Rotary Bowl, please sign the bottom of your child's permission form (coming home after Spring Break) or contact Mme. Bohm directly at cbohm@sd68.bc.ca or 250-758-5711.

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.

Nanaimo Lions Club Eye Exam

School District 68 is once again partnering with the Nanaimo Lions Club to provide students in Grades 4 & 7 a free eye exam. This is an optional program, provided at no cost to families. We will be hosting the Lions Club eye team at our school on April 3rd at 9 am in the library. A permission slip will be coming shortly. Please note that this is an **OPTIONAL** activity. If you **do not** wish your child to participate, please complete the bottom section of the permission slip and return it to the classroom teacher. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have additional questions about this service.

This has been postponed again. A notice will be sent home when a new date has been confirmed.



Upcoming Activities in March/April

March 6	Language Montrice joins EHB
March 9	Earthquake Drill
March 10	Dufflebag Theatre presentation
March 11	Hot Lunch
March 13	Last day before Spring Break
March 30	Schools reopen after Spring Break
April 1	Hot Lunch
April 3	Nanaimo Lions Club eye exam for Grades 4 & 7
April 10	Good Friday – schools are closed
April 13	Easter Monday – schools are closed
April 15	Hot Lunch
April 16	Fire Drill
April 17	Bottle Drive/Grade 7 Swim to Survive
April 21	Photo Day – whole school, teams, class
April 24	Grade 7 Swim to Survive
May 1	School Track & Field Meet for Grades 3-7

VAPING PRODUCTS: Information for Families

The use of vaping products by youth is becoming increasingly common. There are some misconceptions about the aerosol (vapour or cloud) produced, and currently the long-term health effects are unknown. As caregivers, you can connect and discuss issues around vaping products with your child.

Health Canada's vaping information campaign

- Consider the consequences is online, on social media and in person. The Consider the Consequences tour brings an experiential learning event to schools across Canada, including BC.

For tour information, and other items such as interactive activities, window clings, and posters check out: <https://considertheconsequences.ca/>

Help for quitting smoking or vaping

- QuitNow is the provincial quit-smoking service. It now is also offering support to British Columbians of all ages looking to quit or reduce vaping. Phone coaching and live chat services are available now and new services customized for youth are in development. For more information, see: <https://www.quitnow.ca/quitting/e-cigarettes-and-vaping>