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Website: <http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/hamm>
School Year: 2011-2012
Issue #5 – January 19, 2012

Principal: Francine John
Vice-Principal: Sharyn Andruski-Collins
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Principal's Message

Happy New Year/ Bonne Annee

Welcome back everyone! It was nice to see that everyone had a special holiday break. Students and staff have returned to school with refreshed enthusiasm ready to complete a successful second school term.

Open House

Parents interested in finding out more about the French Immersion Program in School District #68 and Hammond Bay School are invited to attend our upcoming Open House:

Date: Wednesday, February 15th
Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Hammond Bay School – gym

Come and join us for an informative and enjoyable session. Please share this information with friends and family members who are interested in enrolling their children in our wonderful program. Please note that this session is for parents only. It is not appropriate for children.



Kindergarten /Grade 1 Registration

Children born in 2007 are eligible for Kindergarten registration for the 2012-2013 school year. In-District French Immersion registration for Kindergarten and new students entering the program in grade 1, will start on Monday, March 5th at 8:00 a.m. at the French Immersion School of the parents' choice. Registration will continue until March 16th, 2012 or until the classes are full. Please remember to bring your child's birth certificate and care card number with you on the day of registration.

Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to students who have a sibling already registered at the school for this 2011/2012 school year.

Where space permits, new Out-of-District applications for French Immersion will be accepted after all In-District applications have been received prior to June 15th, 2012.

For Hammond Bay Families

Please let the office know if you have a child entering school for the 2012-2013 year. It is also important that you register your child during the period March 5th – 16th. "Advance Registration" is not allowed.

Ready Set Learn

Hammond Bay is hosting a Ready Set Learn session for all 3 and 4 year old children and their families on Wednesday, February 22nd from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Come and learn how you can get your preschoolers ready for school. Families who attend the event will receive:

- Information about Hammond Bay and the Immersion program
- A family resource kit of ideas

Winter Conditions-C'est l'hiver

A reminder that school closure information is announced in the morning on the radio (FM 102.3 or 106.9) and also posted on the School District 68 web-site at www.sd68.bc.ca. Also, it is recommended for parents to send a spare set of clothing to school with their children – especially at the Primary level. Even after the snow goes, our fields remain very soggy for quite a while. It's nice to have a change of dry clothes at school when someone falls.

We will probably have more snow in our future forecast so I would like to remind everyone about our no snowball policy. This rule is strictly enforced for the safety of the students. Tobogganing will continue to be allowed at Hammond Bay. Most schools in the District are not allowing sliding because of potential student injury. I am willing to continue to let students use their slides at school on the lower hill at this time. I will review this practice in the future if needed.

Use of Boys Washroom

We have had ongoing problems in our courtyard boys’ washroom since September. We find urine on the floor causing sanitary and health concerns. Different strategies have been put in place to encourage students to use the bathroom properly and leave it clean for all of the boys to use but the problem persists. Please talk to your child(ren) regarding this issue. Your help is greatly appreciated.

FSA Assessments

Are you curious about the content of the Foundation Skills Assessment or FSAs given to all elementary students in British Columbia in grades 4 and 7? If yes, take a look at the sample questions at the following [web address: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sampletests.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sampletests.htm)

The Ministry of Education requires that FSA Assessments be completed by all students in grades 4 and 7 between January 16 and February 24. Students who have a mental or physical handicap or do not comprehend or speak English well enough to be able to meaningfully complete the assessment may be excused. In addition, the Ministry allows principals to excuse students in “extenuating circumstances” (those circumstances which are unforeseen, unexpected, and significantly disruptive and beyond a student’s control).

This Foundation Skills Assessment provides a province-wide snapshot of how well students are learning the prescribed learning outcomes for reading, writing and numeracy across British Columbia. While there is debate about how the results are used by the Fraser Institute to compare schools, at present, this is the only province-wide assessment we have to review how well our students are mastering the expectations set out in our provincial curriculum guidelines.

Clarification

Your son or daughter has recently brought home a letter/brochure regarding FSA Assessments in a sealed envelope. Please note that this letter is not coming from the school or school district but from the Nanaimo District Teacher Association (NDTA) and the BCTF. Please note that there is incorrect information in this brochure. It states that teachers will be administering the assessment, which is inaccurate. Because of the job action, principals and vice principals will be the ones administering the assessment. The tests are mandatory for all grade 4 and 7 students.

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 extended periods of time as to create a hardship on individual students,
- English-as-a-Second Language students who have not yet reached the level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses.

Parents can request that the Principal excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances. **Extenuating circumstances are those which are unforeseen, unexpected, and significantly disruptive and beyond a student’s control.** If this applies to your child, you should contact the school to discuss the details with me.

Thanks, Francine John

2011-2012 School Calendar

February 20	District PRO D Day
February 21	School-Based PRO D Day
March 16	Last day before Spring Break
March 26	School Reopens
April 6	Good Friday
April 9	Easter Monday
April 23	School-Based PRO D Day
May 14	School-Based PRO D Day (Secondary)
May 21	Victoria Day
June 28	School-Based PRO D Day (Elementary)
June 29	Administrative Day school closed

Satisfaction Surveys

The Ministry of Education Satisfactory Survey is for students in grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents and staff. The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Surveys will be administered to grades 4 and 7 students during the month of February. Parent surveys will be sent home with the grades 4 and 7 students.

The survey response has the potential to provide insightful feedback on the culture of our school.

Student Council Activities

January 20th – Crazy Hair Day

February 14th – Valentine’s Dance
Red/Pink Day

Students from grades 5 to 7 will be invited to participate in this years’ Valentine’s Dance in the gymnasium on February 14th from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Students from grades K to 4 will also have the opportunity to learn some dances with the Student Council. A special dance will be organized from 1:00-1:30 p.m. on the same day for them. Come and dance the YMCA, the Chicken Dance, the Macarena with the children.

February 9th- Valentine’s Day Craft session in the gym from 11:20-12:00 p.m. all K-4 students are invited to participate

Student Safety

We would like to remind students of some basic personal safety measures:

- When walking in the community, stay in well-travelled areas as much as possible, particularly at night.
- Don’t walk alone in isolated areas, even in the daytime.
- Be aware of your surroundings and whether there might be people following you that give you concern.

NDSS Band Visits Hammond Bay

On Tuesday, January 17th the NDSS band visited Hammond Bay School to show the students how students can progress through the band program in high school. It was a very enjoyable concert and we appreciate the performance offered to our school.

Assemblies

Thank you to Mme. Anneli’s class for presenting at the last assembly in December.

M. Raynald Mercier’s grade 3 class is scheduled to perform at our month end assembly on January 30th at 2:00 p.m. I hope that you can join us.

Project Soul is performing at Hammond Bay on February 7th at 9:30 a.m., all students are invited to attend. Some spaces will be available for parents. Thanks to PAC for sponsoring this presentation.

Opera presentation- The Vancouver Opera will be presenting *Hansel and Gretel* in our gym on February 22 at 10:15 am. Thanks to Mrs. Andruski-Collins for organizing this presentation for us.

Jazz Presentation at the Port Theatre-

Grade 6 and 7 students will be attending a jazz presentation offered by Woodlands, Barsby and Wellington band students on Friday, February 3rd from 11:30-12:30. Permission slips will be going home soon.

Games and Electronics at School

We are asking that parents ensure that students keep any of their electronics, Game Boys, DS, Ipods, MP3 players etc...at home. Also, trading cards such as Pokemon, Chaotic and Bakugon games should be left at home.

We are finding that these items are starting to interfere with lessons in the classroom, and run the risk of being lost or stolen at school. The school cannot be responsible for these items should they be lost or stolen and we certainly do not want them to interfere with the learning in the classroom. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sports

Volleyball season is coming to an end with the playoffs starting during the week of January 16th for the Bantam teams. I would like to thank our coaches and sponsors for their support. I would also like to thank parents for driving students to and from games and for their encouragement of our players.

Basketball season will take place from February 6th to April 6th. Thank you to the following coaches and teacher sponsors:

Pee Wee Boys:
Coach – John Linder
Sponsor – Francine John

Pee Wee Girls:
Coach – Ms. Leslie
Sponsor – Dominique Struch

Bantam Boys Team #1:
Coach – Mr. and Mrs. Cederberg
Sponsor - Kathleen Lougheed-Mercier
M. Mercier/M. Lussier

Bantam Boys Team #2
Coach - John Linder
Sponsor - Francine John

Bantam Girls:
Coach - Mr. Dendes
Sponsor - Nancy Cantin



Library News

Students and staff continue to recommend books for our library collection. As a result, favourite books and popular series have been purchased (thank you PAC!) and are being shared among students on a weekly basis. Suggestions for books from parents to re-stock our shelves are also welcome anytime.

Over the next few weeks the literacy focus in the library will be on humour; fables and poetry; citizenship and ecology. Making connections to what is being read and making inferences from what is being discussed will be encouraged.

Author visits are being planned for March, April and May. Once the visits are confirmed, final preparations will aim to make events memorable for both authors and students. More information will follow over the next few weeks.

Library volunteers are needed once again on Mondays in PM, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in AM and PM. It would be great to have some parents from each classroom come by and help shelve books. In that way, the jobs are manageable for most people. Ten minutes of your time = one basket of books back on the shelves. Do consider the library as a destination to exercise your mind! Do come by and select books for both you and your family as well. It is easy to register for access to the school library collection.

All the best in this New Year and many happy (book) returns!

Happy reading!
Robert Lussier, Teacher-Librarian
Pam Boutin, Library Clerk



Homework Club

Every Thursday from 11:20-12:00, students can bring some work or read a book in the multi-purpose portable. Student council members are there to help out. Please remind your children to take advantage of this offer. They can complete all their work before the weekend.

Grade 7 Rock Band

Grade 7 students are invited to join the Hammond Bay Rock Band on Wednesday at 11:20 in the band room. Mr. Loyst will be leading the students.

Follow one of our students on her adventure

Jenna Strong (grade 3) is embarking on a remarkable journey. Her family has joined www.SparkCircus.org and will be travelling around Thailand for almost two months. Their journey starts on the southern islands before heading north, to perform fire dancing shows and teach circus workshops to the children in the Burmese refugee camps, orphanages and hospitals. SparkCircus is in its 7th year of operation and it brings hope, joy, colour and play to approximately 4,000 children in war torn regions. The family will be blogging their trip on www.VestaFireEntertainment.ca and hope that you will follow along on their adventure.

SD#68 Student Support Services Survey

SD#68 Student Support Services seeks input from all parents/caregivers of students currently enrolled in Nanaimo- Ladysmith schools regardless of whether your child has identified special needs or not. The SSS Survey deadline has been extended to February 1st, 2012. The survey is available online. Check the school District Website and click the link to “Student Support Services Survey”

Emergency Kiosk

On December 16th I discovered that someone had broken into our emergency kiosk and stolen most of our emergency supplies. Water, students care packs and some miscellaneous items were not taken. The police and school district were contacted. The School District insurance deductible is \$10,000 so unfortunately we cannot depend on the insurance to help us cover the cost of the items that were in our kiosk.

Mr. Manney and Mr. Alexander have offered to price out the stolen inventory. Mr. Manney has sourced out a “tamper free” lock and he has offered to buy it for us before we start collecting new supplies.

I am in the process of organizing a Safety Fair at Hammond Bay and I would like to use this opportunity to raise money to start replenishing our kiosk.

If you have any ideas or if you would like to help out please contact me. If you have any concerns or questions please contact me at fjohn@sd68.bc.ca or by phone at 250 758-5711.