

HAMMOND NEWS

11520 - 203rd Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 4T6
Phone: 604-460-1136 / Fax: 604-460-1137
Website: (<http://schools.sd42.ca/hammond/>)
Twitter: @HammondSD42



Principal: Mr. Wes Reamsbottom
Vice Principal: Ms. Megan Olynyk

Newsletter #5 - February 12, 2021

*At Hammond
Elementary, students
and staff work hard to
build a positive school
culture. We believe
that everyone has a
responsibility to create
a caring, safe and
orderly learning
environment.*

Upcoming Events

- Feb 3 General Kindergarten
Registration opens
- Feb 4 Grade 8 Registration opens
- Feb 12 Spirit Day – Valentine’s
Themed
- Feb 15 Family Day Stat Holiday
No classes
- Feb 16 Non Instructional Day
No classes
- Feb 19 BC Lions Zoom 1:00
- Feb 24 Pink Shirt Day
- Mar 11 Early Dismissal, 11:30
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mar 12 Conferencing Day
No Classes
- Mar 15 to Mar 26 Spring Break
- Mar 29 Back to School

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It didn’t take long for January to fly by and now it is already Mid-February! The month has flown by and now we are at the midway-point of our school year. Though this time of year is usually busy with many sports, we are still engaged in Spirit Day events and our upcoming kindness events. It may be cold outside, but the sunshine has helped as students play outside at recess and lunch without the rain and our hallways remain filled with student work which is always so wonderful to see!

Our theme for February is Kindness as we have our Pink Shirt day and Random Acts of Kindness week which seems so fitting during these times. February is a busy month with Kindergarten and Grade Eight registrations as well as student transfers. Please read below for important information regarding registration dates and timelines, transfers and school closures for family day and the upcoming Spring break. As always, feel free to visit with Mrs. Olynyk or myself as we are outside before school, at recess, lunch and after school.

All the best to you and your family during the month of February.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDERS...

- Schools will be closed **Monday, February 15th** to recognize the *Family Day* statutory holiday. We hope everyone enjoys their family time.
- A reminder that **Tuesday, February 16th** is a Non-Instructional Day and students do not attend.
- Students will be dismissed at 11:30 on **Thursday, March 11th** and do not attend on **Friday, March 12th** to allow for *Conferencing*. Students do not attend aside from attending at their conference time. Teachers will be communicating with parents their schedule and sign-up procedure later on in February.

STUDENT TRANSFERS...

School District 42 allows students to attend a school other than their “catchment” school or “neighbourhood” school, provided there is space available at the school of choice. For more information on Student transfers please visit the school district website: <https://www.sd42.ca/student-registration/>

GRADE SEVEN NEWS...

Registration for Grade 8 is on-line through the Parent Portal. The portal opened on Thursday, February 4th at 12:00 noon to take registrations and closes February 19th at noon. We encourage you to have created your profile on the Portal and be linked to your child prior to this date. If you have any questions about specific programs at any of the secondary schools, do not hesitate to contact them directly. After the online registration deadline of February 19 closes, you will need to go directly to your catchment high school to do a paper registration.

COVID Reminders

A reminder that in accord with COVID-19 protocols, we ask **parents to consider spending as little time as possible on the school grounds**. If you do not have to wait with your children, please do not do so. If you need to wait with your children, we need your cooperation to:

- Physically distance from other adults and children who are not your own, and considering wearing your mask as per the Provincial Health Officer's guidelines
- Remain well clear (5 metres or 15 feet) of the school building and areas where the children are lining up
- Stay clear of the outside classroom doors (**student only zones**) in order to allow students to enter/exit safely
- Please try not congregate on the school property to socialize before or after school
 - Also, we ask that students head straight home after school and do not socialize on the school grounds after school.
- **Leave the property as soon as you have picked up or dropped off your child. We have received many phone calls and emails from parents concerned about the lack of physical distancing and congregation of adults on the property.** Let's work together to keep everyone safe!

PINK SHIRT DAY...

On Wednesday, February 24th we encourage everyone to wear something PINK to promote kindness.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP...

The leadership team is holding a Toque and Mitten drive until Feb. 18th. Donations of any size new or gently used are appreciated. Collections are going to a local homeless shelter. The class with the most donations will win a prize!

BOOKFAIR...

Once again Hammond will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in April during the Spring Bazaar on April 25 and then during school hours April 27, 28 and 29. More detailed information will be coming home with your child closer to the event. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile event. If you wish to lend a hand, please do not hesitate to email the PAC at hammondpac@hotmail.com.

STUDENT ABSENCES and LATES...

We would like to thank everyone for so diligently emailing, advising through the portal, or telephoning the school to let us know if your children are going to be late or absent before the start of the school day. When your child is late, please remind them to sign in at the office. This really helps our phone home program run smoothly. Also, remember to keep the school office current with any phone number changes. Thank you.

PARKING LOT...

We would first like to say that double parking in our parking lot is not allowed. If you must double park, please DO NOT leave your vehicle. We have many staff that need to leave directly at the bell to go pick up their own children, make it to appointments, etc. and therefore need to be able to pull out of their parking spots. If you are blocking a vehicle, we will need you to remain in your vehicle so that you can easily move out of the way.



STRONGSTART...

Are you new to us at Hammond StrongStart? If you'd like to participate in our free program for ages birth - 5 years, please contact me at Sarah_Neider@sd42.ca Pre-registration is required for our in-class, virtual and outside days. You will be asked to complete a registration form and provide a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport. I look forward to meeting you! StrongStart Educator, Sarah Neider

HAMMOND PAC NEWS...

AGM nominations for the PAC are due back on February 17 - voting will take place Feb. 18 - 25
The AGM is set to take place on March 1, 2021. All nominations can be emailed to hammondpac@hotmail.com

Fundraisers DFS fundraiser due back on February 22
Purdy's Easter Choco

SD42 Enhanced Cleaning in Schools - Vital Oxide

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our primary concern. In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have the added responsibility of ensuring that our facilities are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the *Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings*.

The school district currently uses Vital Oxide solution as part of its enhanced daily cleaning regimen implemented to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. It is hypoallergenic, biodegradable, fragrance-free, food-safe, and non-toxic. The product is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and has one of the safest classifications possible while also killing 99.999% of bacteria and viruses within minutes.

The district initially used a bleach-based cleaner when schools reopened for in-classroom instruction in September but switched to the eco-friendly Vital Oxide in late October/early November to address feedback received from schools. Fraser Health has confirmed that this product is not hazardous and non-toxic, and is not expected to cause respiratory or skin irritation. Eye contact may cause mild irritation.

As always, if you have any concerns, please make sure to share these concerns with us by calling the school or sending an email to wes_reamsbottom@sd42.ca. In rare instances where an adverse reaction does occur, the district can switch to a different hypoallergenic product for that classroom.