

## Hamilton Elementary School - Newsletter

5180 Smith Drive, Richmond, B.C., V6V 2W5  
Phone: (604) 668-6514 Fax: (604) 668-6515  
Early Warning for Absences (604) 668-6516  
Website: [Hamilton.sd38.bc.ca](http://Hamilton.sd38.bc.ca)

Principal: Mr. Mark McCallum

Vice Principal: Mrs. Mika Livingston

*We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the [hən'q'əmin'əm](#) (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.*

September 8th, 2022

- **Principal's Message**
- **Students in New Classes for the Year**
- **Staffing Update**
- **Epipens returned to school**
- **Early Warning – Student Absences**
- **Lunches and Birthday Treats**
- **Student and Family Affordability Fund**
- **Important Dates for the Year**

Dear Hamilton Families,

Welcome back everyone to the start of a new year at Hamilton Elementary! Our first week has been wonderful. Our returning students have had time to connect with their last year's teacher and are eagerly anticipating moving into their new classes tomorrow. Our staff have returned with renewed vigor for their profession and are ready to provide their students with a rich and exciting new year of learning. We look at the education of these amazing young people as a partnership between the school staff and parents. We welcome your involvement during the year through regular communication and home support. Together we can make this year the best it can be for your children.

Respectfully,  
Mr. McCallum

**Tomorrow morning, our students will be going directly to their new classroom for the year. An email will be sent to you today with their placement details.** Students should arrive by 8:40 and line up at their new classroom's outside door where they will be greeted by their new teacher. As a Staff, in consultation with Classroom Teachers, our Resource Teachers, and Principals, we take incredible care and thoughtfulness when placing students and we have good reasons for *where* we place them. Our priority is placing students where we feel they will be most successful in their learning. We also strive to balance our classes in every conceivable way. Sometimes this means placing a student with a friend if we feel it is in their best educational interest, and sometimes it means separating students for the same reason.

Over the last few days on my morning announcements, I have been talking about how change is something that is a part of life and should be welcomed positively. Going into a new classroom community is an opportunity for a fresh start to a new academic year, and an opportunity to build relationships with new people. Inevitably, there are some students who are at first unhappy with the change. It is very much our experience, that these students after a few days settle into their new class and begin the process of making new friends. We ask that you allow your child, and yourself, time to process their new placement without reacting too quickly. Talk to your child about the positive things their new classroom affords them. Trust that our staff has your child's best interest in mind when we place them in a new classroom. Thank you for your support.

We have had several **staffing changes over the summer** and will be welcoming some new staff members over the next couple of weeks.

- Mrs. Herold retired at the end of last year and we will be hiring a new classroom teacher.
- Mr. Gibson, our Teacher Librarian, resigned his position and Ms. Malin (formerly Nasu) has taken on the position in the library.
- Ms. Foisy has moved from her Resource position to be a Primary Classroom Teacher.
- Mr. Mursalim, after a difficult decision, has moved to Diefenbaker school as a full-time Resource Teacher.
- We currently have 3 postings out to replace teachers in our Resource or Band positions.
- We welcome back EAs Ms. Bev Pawliuk from a medical leave and both Ms. Bertha Orozco-Tello and Ms. Sukhman Gill are here until further notice.

If your child requires an **Epipen at school** please ensure that it is brought to school by your child and given to their classroom teacher, or that it is dropped off at the school office. Please make sure it is in a ziplock baggie and clearly marked with your child's name, their new teacher's name and their new division number.

**If your child is absent or arriving late**, please use our Early Warning Message system at (604) 668-6516 or contact the office directly after 8:00am at (604) 668- 6514. Last year parents would sometimes only tell a teacher or an EA, but it is your responsibility to contact the school office. Thank you.

Until further notice, **Lunches and Birthday Treats** are NOT to be dropped off at the school. We thank you for your understanding in this regard. We are continuing to follow healthy guidelines for the safety of all our students and staff.

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

Currently, we are requesting that families reach out to Mr. McCallum if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help. [mmccallum@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:mmccallum@sd38.bc.ca)

### Dates for 2022/2023

Days in Session	186
Minimum Number of days of instruction	179
Non-Instructional Days	6

<b>Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>	<b>September 23</b>
Individual Photo Day	September 26
<b>Truth &amp; Reconciliation Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>September 30</b>
FSA Testing Period Begins	October 3
<b>Conferences – 1:45 Dismissal Days</b>	<b>October 4 &amp; 5</b>
Gr. 6 & 7 Immunizations	October 5
<b>Thanksgiving Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>October 10</b>
<b>Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>	<b>October 21</b>
Photo Retakes	November 2
<b>Remembrance Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>November 11</b>
<b>Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>	<b>November 21</b>
<b>Winter Vacation - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>December 19 – January 2</b>
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation	January 3
<b>Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>	<b>January 30</b>
<b>Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>	<b>February 17</b>
<b>BC Family Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>February 20</b>
<b>Conferences – 12:00 Dismissal</b>	<b>March 8</b>
<b>Spring Vacation</b>	<b>March 13 - March 24</b>
<b>Good Friday - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>April 7</b>
<b>Easter Monday - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>April 10</b>
<b>Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>	<b>May 19</b>
<b>Victoria Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>May 22</b>
Last Day of Classes	June 29
Administrative Day	June 30 (no students at school)