

## 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.*

October 20th, 2022

- **Pro-D Day tomorrow**
- **Hamilton Pumpkin Patch – Oct. 28**
- **Diwali on Monday**
- **Halloween Safety**

A reminder that **tomorrow is a District-Wide Professional Development Day** and students do not attend. Our staff will be involved in a wide variety of professional learning opportunities all over the Lower Mainland.

We are pleased to announce the return of **The Hamilton Pumpkin Patch**. On the morning of Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> the folks from Westham Island Pumpkin & Herb Farm will be delivering 400 pumpkins to our school field. Any parents who would like to help us unload the pumpkins at 8:00 in the morning are welcome. Our school field will then become a pumpkin patch for the day, and at 1:00, every student will have an opportunity to come out to the field and select a pumpkin. Many of our teachers will then take the opportunity to create an art activity using the pumpkins. **This wonderful event is funded by our Hamilton PAC.** Thank you, PAC!

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> Hindu, Sikh, and Jain members of our community begin the celebration of **Diwali, or the Festival of Lights**. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. We wish all our families celebrating Diwali good fortune, wealth, prosperity and happiness.

### **“Trick or Treat” Others with Respect**

Halloween can be fun. However, we need to be aware that celebrating Halloween needs to be fun for ALL and not at the expense of equity seeking groups. Halloween offers an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about costume choices with colleagues and students, and that those choices require consideration. In doing so, it is important to keep in mind that we need to be sensitive to groups that have been marginalized through mimicry and cultural appropriation during Halloween and other ‘dress up’ events. A few things to keep in mind: It’s good to keep in mind that the following are NOT Costumes: RACE (black face/brown face) CULTURE (Indigenous regalia/dreadlocks) RELIGIOUS FAITH (religious

figures/gods/saints/gurus/hijab) GENDER (gender switching for humour or to mock) TRAUMA (hangman's noose/weapons)

## Upcoming Dates

**October**      German Heritage Month  
                    Canadian Islamic History Month  
                    Latin American Heritage Month  
                    Women's History Month

**Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**  
Hamilton Pumpkin Patch 1:00  
Photo Retakes  
Indigenous Veteran's Day  
Remembrance Day Assembly – 11:00  
**Remembrance Day - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
National Child Day  
**Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**  
Zero Heroes Presentation  
**Winter Vacation - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation  
**Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**  
**Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**  
**BC Family Day - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Conferences – 12:00 Dismissal  
Spring Vacation  
**Good Friday - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**Easter Monday - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
**Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**  
**Victoria Day - SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Last Day of Classes  
Administrative Day

**October 21**  
October 28  
November 2  
November 8  
November 10  
**November 11**  
November 20  
**November 21**  
December 1  
**December 19 – January 2**  
January 3  
**January 30**  
**February 17**  
**February 20**  
**March 8**  
**March 13 - March 24**  
**April 7**  
**April 10**  
**May 19**  
**May 22**  
June 29  
June 30 (no students at school)