

Hamilton Elementary School - Newsletter

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Website: Hamilton.sd38.bc.ca

Principal: Mark McCallum

Asst. Supt: Christel Brautigam

Vice-Principal: Karen Burroughs-Chan

Trustee Liaison: Alice Wong

We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the [hənq̓əmin̓əm'](#) (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on who's traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

May 29, 2025

- **Principal's Message**
- **Grade 7 Grad Committee Updates**
- **Staffing Update**
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Dear Hamilton Families,

What a change in the weather from yesterday to today. Yesterday, with the unusual spike in temperatures, it provided us an opportunity to see how our efforts to educate children about the dangers of exposure to the sun and heat are taking effect. I'm happy to say that as I supervised around the school playgrounds at recess, lunch, and in the afternoon, I saw lots of students wearing hats, drinking water, and especially finding shade as a respite from the heat.

Remembering back to the heat dome a few years ago that led to the cancellation of the last few days of school, it is so important our students know the strategies to stay safe in excessively warm situations.

A reminder that forms are available in our school office if you would like to make a request by June 13th for next year's class placement.

Mr. McCallum

Grade 7 Grad Committee Updates

This year's Grade 7 Grad Parent Committee are busily raising money and planning for the upcoming Grade 7 Day on June 20th. While the Grade 7 Teachers and the Administrators plan the ceremony and the after party, the Parent Committee plays a vital role decorating the gym for the event, providing a celebratory lunch and a gift bag for our grade 7s. There will be a **meeting of the committee at 7:00 this evening in our school foyer**. All parents of grade 7 students are welcome to attend. There will also be a **Popcorn Sale after dismissal tomorrow** to help raise money for this year's event.

Staffing Update

The end of every school year sees some of our staff leaving and new people coming to Hamilton. This year, as you may already know, **Ms. Tracy Yuen (Grade 2/3, Div. 9)** and I will be retiring,

Ms. Robyn Mesic (Resource) is retiring her position to pursue other endeavors, and this past week **Ms. Ashley McKittrick (Grade 2/3, Div. 10)** has successfully posted into a position at Westwind Elementary. All 3 of these teachers have been at Hamilton for many years, and they will be dearly missed. Congratulations to all of them and best wishes in the future!

Dear Hamilton Families,

It is with both true joy and sadness that I let you know I am leaving the Hamilton Community. For the past 20 years I have called Hamilton a second home. It has been a true privilege to be part of this incredible school community. I have truly loved working with the amazing staff, students, and families who make this such a special place, one that is difficult to say goodbye to.

As I prepare to move on to a new chapter, I want to express my deep gratitude for the support, kindness, and connection I've experienced here. The Hamilton community will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will cherish the memories we've made together. I truly do believe in "The Hamilton Family".

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your children's journey—I will miss you all.

*With warmest squishes,
Ashley McKittrick (aka The Grizzly Bear)*

Dear Hamilton Families,

My time has come to "fly the Hamilton nest"! (Meaning...that I will be retiring at the end of June and flying off to see the world in September!)

I feel so blessed to have been a part of our Hamilton School community for the past eight years. I have had a wonderful time working alongside my amazing colleagues to create a safe, caring, peaceful and joyous place for your children to grow and flourish.

With lots of love and hugs, Ms. Mesic

How Parents Can Help...

This morning while I was supervising at the front of the school, I witnessed an unusually large number of cars dropping off students after our 8:45 start time. This is **the most congested I have seen our drop off zone in the six years** I have been at Hamilton. I understand that some of the congestion was due to the construction across from the school on Gilley and Smith, but I need to impart on all of you **how important it is to arrive earlier than 8:40, be patient when coming into the drop-off zone, and most importantly, do NOT pull in on an angle or leave your car**

unattended. It is so important that we have a constant flow to the drop-off. Pulling in on an angle to the curb means you will then have to then back up to leave which causes extra confusion and safety concerns. Especially in lieu of the tragic accident at Horseshoe Bay yesterday which claimed the life of a 4-year-old boy, **we always need to be diligent in ensuring the areas around the school are safe.** Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

Grade 7 Grad Fundraiser: Popcorn & Freezie Sale

When: May 30th (Friday)

Time: 2:45pm (afterschool)

Where: At the front entrance of the school

Price: Jumbo freezie - \$2each; Kernels Popcorn: \$3 for 1 bag OR \$5 for 2 bags

Fun Lunch Fridays:

****Please email us if your child is away on a Fun Lunch**

Day: HamiltonFunLunch@gmail.com

> Options: 1) Pick up the lunch between 12-3pm 2) Give the lunch to a sibling to eat or take home 3) Donate the lunch to a volunteer

Last PAC Meeting of the school year:

Date: June 11th (Wednesday)

Time: 6:00pm

Place: School Library

>>>2025-2026 PAC Team:

PAC chair: Simona Zoccolan

Secretary: Lara Truong

Co-Treasurers: Juliana Yim & Ada Leung

Lunch Coordinators: Lydia Liew, Yumi Yamada & Joanne Phung

Fundraising Coordinators: Kristina Uyeda & Belle Goyengko

Social Media Coordinator: Karoline Verdi

Important Dates (THIS school year)

***Note: Events Dates in bold indicate changes to the school day or regular hours of 8:45 – 2:45**

Grade 7 Grad Parent Committee Meeting 7:00 Thursday, May 29

Grade 7 Grad Popcorn Sale Fundraiser 2:45 Friday, May 30

Family Pancake Breakfast 7:30am Wednesday, Jun 4

Grade 7s visit McNair Monday, Jun 9

School Bands Concert 1:00 Tuesday, Jun 10

***Sports Day – 1:30 Dismissal** **Friday, Jun 13**

Grade 7 Day – 10:30 assembly Friday, Jun 20

Year End Assembly – 10:30 Wednesday, Jun. 25

Year End Slide Show – 10:30 Thursday, Jun. 26

Final Term Learning Summaries available online Thursday, Jun. 26

Last Day Students Attend – 2:45 Dismissal Thursday, Jun. 26

Administration Day – **Students do not attend** Friday, Jun. 27

The Ministry of Education's School Calendar Regulation requires that on or before May 31st schools make the following information available to every parent of a student in the school:

SCHOOL CALENDAR INFORMATION 2025 – 2026

School Days in Session: 187

Minimum Number of Days of Instruction: 180

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

8:40 a.m. First Bell – students may enter school and go to their classrooms

8:45 a.m. Classes Begin – students are considered late

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Recess

11:50 p.m. – 12:42 p.m. Lunch

2:45 p.m. Classes Dismissed

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Some Important Dates for NEXT School Year – Please mark your calendars.

***Note: Events Dates in bold indicate changes to the school day or regular hours of 8:45 – 2:45**

First Day Back – Students attend for 1 hour

Tuesday, Sep 2

Grade 7s at Camp Sasamat

Mon, Sep 8 – Wed, Sep 10

Individual Photo Day

Monday, Sep 15

Professional Development Day – students do not attend

Monday, Sep 22

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – stat. holiday

Tuesday, Sep 30

Thanksgiving Day – stat. holiday

Monday, Oct 13

Parent/Teacher Conferences – 1:45 Dismissal Days

Wed, Oct 22/ Thur, Oct 23

Professional Development Day – students do not attend

Friday, Oct 24

Photo Retakes Day

Monday, Oct 27

Remembrance Day – stat. holiday

Tuesday, Oct 11

Professional Development Day – students do not attend

Monday, Dec 1

Last day before Winter Break

Friday, Dec 19

First day back after Winter Break

Monday, Jan 5

Professional Development Day – students do not attend

Monday, Jan 26

Professional Development Day – students do not attend

Friday, Feb 13

Family Day – stat. holiday

Monday, Feb 16

Parent/Teacher Conferences – 11:50 dismissal

Wednesday, Feb 25

Class Photo Day

Tuesday, Mar 10

Last day before Spring Break

Friday, Mar 13

First day back after Spring Break

Monday, Mar 30

Good Friday – stat. holiday

Friday, Apr 3

Easter Monday – stat. holiday

Monday, Apr 6

Professional Development Day – students do not attend

Friday, May 15

Victoria Day – stat. holiday

Monday, May 18

Sports Day – 1:30 Dismissal

Friday, Jun 12

Grade 7 Day/Assembly

Friday, Jun 19

Last School Day for Students - 2:45 dismissal
Administrative Day – Students do not attend

Thursday, Jun 25
Friday, Jun 26