



In the Hawks Nest

At Hans Helgesen Elementary

September 17, 2021

Welcome back to a new school year at Hans Helgesen Elementary School. We extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us and to our Kindergarten students.

We are very excited to be part of the school team. It is a terrific place to work and learn. Our community has a profound sense of pride and care about our school and the surrounding neighbourhood.

While many of our staff are returning from last year, there are a few new faces joining the “Hawk” team. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the following returning and new staff members:

- Ms. J. Struch
- Mr. D. Karleen
- Ms. A. Bodman
- Ms. J. Falzon

This year, we will have 9 Divisions at HH. This is the same number of Divisions as the last school year.

As well, thank you so much for your commitment to keeping your children home when they are unwell and doing the daily health checks. You have been incredibly respectful of this policy and we are grateful to all of you for your caring and dedication to keeping everyone safe.



On the first day of school, Elder Henry Chipps of Scia'new Nation welcomed students with drumming as they walked up the hill.

We are thankful every day to live, learn and play on the traditional lands of Scian'ew Beecher Bay Nation. We raise our hands and give a big “hych'ka”!



With respect and friendship,

Cathy and Jon

Upcoming Dates

| | |
|---------|--|
| Sept 23 | Terry Fox Run |
| Sept 24 | Photo Day |
| Sept 27 | Non-instructional Day (school not in session) |
| Sept 29 | Orange Shirt Day |
| Sept 30 | National Truth and Reconciliation Day (school not in session) |



We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Scia'new Beecher Bay Nation on which the school is built. We thank them for sharing this beautiful land. Hych'ka – “Thank You”

In construction news:

- The replacement and repair of the water damaged areas of the roof is well underway. You can see the colour of the new roof, in many completed sections.
- At the back of the school, the scaffolding is up. A protective wall is surrounding the base of the scaffolding and the doorways.
- Work on the building envelope will begin in the area near the multipurpose room and gym in the next little while



Snack and Lunches

At Hans Helgesen, we have litterless lunches. All food waste is taken home at the end of the day. This ensures a parent knows what has been eaten. We encourage reusable containers for less mess in the lunch bag.

Sandwiches, wraps, vegetables, fruit, yogurt, cheese and crackers are a few ideas for yummy lunches. Please send all necessary ice packs and cutlery, as well as, a labelled water bottle.



Visitors in the School

We are excited that the school district is permitting visitors if they make an appointment.

Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher if you would like a face-to-face appointment. The district has advised us to make virtual or outdoor appointments where possible. In the event you are coming into the school, all visitors must complete the [Visitor Sign-in/Health Check](#) ahead of time. Thank you!



The new Gaga ball court

Consent Portal for Parents

Each year parents are required to update online consents for their children for standard and district-wide programs. Please login <https://consent.sd62.bc.ca>

Health & Safety in School

As we have always done, we are trying to be cautious in our approach to the start of the year and prioritize health and safety in the school. We are optimistic as we alter some of the COVID-19 measures and implement the School District's Communicable Disease Plan. At this time, we are not holding large events or gatherings such as an open-house Meet the Teacher. Classroom teachers will be reaching out to you about this and we encourage families to connect with their teacher online, before or after school. Our school continues to apply a trauma-informed lens to our planning that respects differences in comfort levels. Although we would love to see you all at once, the school district has guided us to gradually transition to gatherings by starting with virtual or small, in-person options.

We are excited that more students can play with each other this year than last year. Although there are no "cohorts" we are also not going to 100% of students out at once. We have transitioned from small cohorts into bigger groups. By having staggered play times, the school is maximizing available space to spread everyone out, and to prevent crowding at entry ways. Other SD62 schools are also taking similar precautions to maximize space by staggering times. This will look different at each site.

The construction project is very exciting and interesting for students to see as it moves along. To maximize safety and supervision during the construction, we have created play zones. As the construction crew works on different parts of our school, sometimes these play zones might change.