



Hans Helgesen Elementary

4983 Rocky Point Road
Victoria, B.C. V9C 4G4
School District # 62 (Sooke)
Office: (250) 478-3431 | Fax: (250) 478-1459

Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Dear HH Families,

November is here and we are already into our third month at school! Please read on for the latest news and some important information about catchment changes, school-wide events and communicating student learning.

It's Handball Season!

We are so proud of our Handball players at HH this year. The students have shown excellent sportsmanship and skill development this season. We greatly appreciate our volunteer coaches and referees for making handball possible for our students. Thank you to Mr. T, Ms. B, Ms. Bergman and the HH "cheering squad". **The District Handball Jamborees are happening on Monday, November 20th (Girls) and Tuesday, November 21st (Boys) at Royal Bay Secondary.** Coaches will be sharing further details with their teams. Go Hawks!

Congratulations, Ms. Hunt!

We are wishing Ms. Hunt well as she has been temporarily posted to an Acting Vice Principal position at Wishart Elementary. We will miss Ms. Hunt in our Grade 4/5 class and look forward to her return to her class at HH in the new year. We will be introducing the class to their new teacher for November and December in the coming days!

Remembrance Assembly – Friday, November 10th @ 10:50

This Friday, students will be attending a Remembrance Assembly in advance of Remembrance Day. Some of our Grade 5 students and members of our choir will have prominent roles in this assembly. Thanks to Ms. Dube and Mr. Epp for their work to plan a student-centered program for our students. Parents are welcome to join us for this special assembly. Students are invited to wear their uniforms to school on Friday. Prior to the assembly, we will be distributing poppy stickers to all students. We will be collecting donations to support the Royal Canadian Legion with their annual Poppy Campaign and thank you in advance for your kind support.

Early Dismissal– Thursday, Nov. 23rd

Thursday, Nov. 23rd is a District-wide Early Dismissal day to allow an opportunity for first term learning conferences or Open Houses. **Students will be dismissed at 11:38 am** and buses will be running 3 hours early. Over the next week, your child's teacher will send home details of schedules and the format for upcoming classroom visits and/or conference opportunities. Some classes will be holding student-led conferences, while other classes will be having Open House visits. Some teachers may be reaching out to connect with parents for phone interviews at alternate times. As you can appreciate, these are short meetings to allow for all families to connect with the teachers. All meetings are intended to offer an opportunity for parents to check in with their child's teacher, hear of their child's strengths and areas for growth, and to review some goals together. Please continue to reach out directly to your child's teacher if you have concerns, questions, or information to assist us in supporting your child at school. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating your child's first term progress!

Communicating Student Learning

This year, the District has adopted a new process for reporting to parents. **All teachers will be issuing learning updates online and we will not be sending paper copies home.** At Hans Helgesen, all teachers will be reporting through MyEd and **reports will be accessible online on Thursday, December 21st.** **Parents should already have access to MyEd through the Parent Portal. Please see attached instructions** to ensure that you will be able to access your child's learning update. Thanks for your support as we all navigate this new process!

CBIEP Meetings

CBIEP stands for “Competency Based Individual Education Plan”. Several students at school have a variety of Special Needs designations as determined through criteria set out by the Ministry of Education. A Ministry designation allows for a special team meeting within the first term of school which can include the student’s parents, teacher(s), Educational Assistants, Inclusion Support team and some outside agencies. A student’s Individual Education Plan outlines specific goals that children will work toward during the school year. These goals and strategies are reviewed and revised annually. Thank you to our Inclusion Support teachers, Ms. Tinisha Leung and Ms. Paula Leach for organizing and leading these CBIEP meetings with our HH families. We appreciate the supportive involvement of all staff and parents as we strive to create opportunities for all students to achieve success.

HH Concert 2024

We are looking forward to having a concert opportunity at Hans Helgesen in **late February 2024**. To ensure our District chairs, staging and equipment are available for concerts, our elementary schools are now part of a District calendar. Hans Helgesen had a December concert in 2022 and will have another opportunity for a winter concert next year. We are planning some special events in classrooms and around the school in December. More information will be coming soon!

District Catchment Changes

As the District continues to grow and new schools are under construction, there are resulting changes to catchment boundaries. Please click on the link for catchment information from the District regarding the proposed catchment boundaries for the opening of SCIANEW STELITKEL Elementary School on Latoria Road, planned to open in September 2025.

[Catchment Proposals & Review | Sooke School District \(sd62.bc.ca\)](https://sd62.bc.ca/catchment-proposals-and-review)

Registration for Kindergarten 2024

We are starting to receive some inquiries about Kindergarten registration for next year. Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year will open online during the last week of January 2024. Families must register at their catchment schools. The District will be communicating more information about registration prior to Winter Break.

Donations to 10,000 Tonight Food Drive

HH will be supporting the **10,000 Tonight Food Drive**, organized by the Royal Bay Leadership team. This is an amazing annual community event to collect non-perishable food items for families in need in our community to be distributed through the Goldstream Food Bank. **Between Nov. 23rd and Nov 28th, we will be collecting food items at Hans Helgesen.** Donations will be picked up on Nov. 29th by student volunteers. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and can be donated online through the Royal Bay Secondary School website: <http://royalbay.web.sd62.bc.ca> We are proud of our many Hans Helgesen alumni students who are part of this inspiring event.

Emergency Drills at School

At school, we regularly practice safety drills to address a variety of emergencies. So far, students have been practicing procedures for both **Fire Drills** and **Earthquake Drills**. We are doing an excellent job of evacuating the school quickly and quietly and staying with class line-ups for attendance. Staff work with students before, during and after these drills to talk through the steps and debrief about the process.

Soon, students will have opportunities to practice for both **Lockdown Drills** and **Hold and Secure Drills**. A “Lockdown” is a school safety procedure designed to keep students and staff safe in circumstances where there is a potentially dangerous event within the vicinity of the school. In a Lockdown Drill, students gather quietly in a safe and secure space within the room with their teacher and staff for the duration of the drill. A “Hold and Secure” procedure is a school safety procedure designed to keep students and staff safely contained within the school while a potential danger outside is being mitigated outside the school (ie- downed power lines, bear sighting on the property, etc.). In a Hold and Secure situation, the interior of the school continues to function, but we do not have people coming in and out of the building while there is an outside risk.

As students learn and practice these safety drills, we will continue to talk through the steps and the processes together in an age-appropriate manner. We want to ensure families have a heads up about the terminology we use for these safety drills, as you may hear of them at home. Thank you for reassuring your children that they are very safe at school!

Thank you, PAC!

On the evening of Thursday, October 26th, our PAC hosted an amazing Hallowe'en party for families. **Thanks to all parents** who assisted with decorating and set-up, music, serving food, working a shift at the door, or assisting with clean up. Our Grade 5 class raised an incredible \$600 at their bake sale! It was an exciting lead-up to Hallowe'en and we enjoyed seeing all the terrific costumes. **Our next PAC meeting is online on Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 pm.** Stay tuned for upcoming meeting information from our PAC.

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- Thursday, Nov. 9th – Popcorn; Handball at Wishart (Boys)
- Friday, Nov. 10th- Remembrance Assembly at 10:50; Pizza Day (Villages Pizza)
- Saturday, Nov. 11th – Remembrance Day
- Monday, Nov. 13th – No School/ Remembrance Day
- Wednesday, Nov. 15th – Handball vs. David Cameron (Boys)
- Thursday, Nov. 16th – Online PAC meeting at 7:00 pm
- Monday, Nov. 20th – Handball Jamboree at Royal Bay (Girls) 3:30-6:00 pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 21st – Handball Jamboree at Royal Bay (Boys) 3:30-6:30
- Thursday, Nov. 23rd – Early Dismissal at 11:38 Conferences & Open Houses scheduled; Food drop-off for 10,000 Tonight begins at HH
- Friday, Nov. 24th – Professional Development Day for staff – No school for students
- Wednesday, Nov. 29th – Hold and Secure Drill at 1:30pm ; 10,000 Tonight Food Drive
- Friday, Dec. 1st – Pizza Day (Villages Pizza)
- Thursday, Dec. 7th – Popcorn
- Friday, Dec. 15th – Pizza Day (Villages Pizza)
- Thursday, Dec. 21st- Popcorn; Reports available to view on MyEd
- Friday, Dec. 22nd – Last Day of School / Winter Break
- Tuesday, Jan. 8th – Back to School 2024

Our teachers continue to do an excellent job of notifying parents of special activities happening in classrooms. Please check your email for regular classroom updates. Thank you to all parents for your ongoing supportive involvement in your child's learning journey.

Sincerely,
Karen Sjerven



Karen Sjerven (she/her)
Principal
Hans Helgesen Elementary School
4983 Rocky Point Road, Victoria, BC V9C 4G4
O: 250-478-3431
<https://hanshelgesen.web.sd62.bc.ca/>

We acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation and Sc'ianew Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth: Pacheedaht Nation. We also recognize some of our schools reside on the traditional territory of the Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation.