



Hans Helgesen Elementary

4983 Rocky Point Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 4G4
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Friday, July 3rd, 2026.

Dear HH families,

We hope you are enjoying a great start to the summer break! During the last week of school, we celebrated with our Grade 5 students at their **Farewell Assembly** with families and honoured guests from Beecher Bay in attendance. Thank to all parents who attended and contributed refreshments to make this such a special event. On the last day of school, we had our whole school **Celebration Assembly to recognize our students, staff and PAC**. We are so proud of our learners and all they have accomplished this year. We want to extend our **heartfelt thanks to our PAC** for their hard work to provide special events, field trips and resources for students this year. Thank you to all families for your invaluable support!

Communicating Student Learning

Student reports are published through **MYED**. Parents can access their child's summary report online through the Parent Portal. This is the same place that parents can access attendance. Reports will be available to view until the end of August.

School Supply Lists

Families will receive grade level supply lists attached to this email. As always, teachers may make additional supply requests throughout the year as needed.

Staff Farewells

- Best wishes to **Ms. Tricia Cooper**, who is moving to SCIANEW STELIETKEL to a temporary EA assignment. Thanks for everything, Ms. Tricia!
- Congratulations and happy retirement to **Ms. Kirsty Taylor** after 26 years as an EA in our District. We have appreciated Ms. Kirsty's work at HH over the past 3 years and wish her well!
- Best wishes to **Ms. Kiana Archibald**, who provided Learning Support to classes and taught the Grade 5's with Ms. Dube this year. We hope to see you back at HH!
- Thank you and good luck to **Ms. Heather Gustavsson**, who taught our K/1 class this year. Good luck at Lakewood! We hope we'll see you back again!
- Best wishes to **Mrs. Camille McRae**, who is moving to a new position teaching our English Language Learners. Thank you for your work with our Grade 4 & 5 class!
- Thank you and good luck to **Ms. Joanne Dube**, who is moving to Saseenos as Vice Principal. We appreciate Ms. Dube's work with our Grade 5 class and her work as Vice principal over the past 5 years at Hans Helgesen. Enjoy your new school, Ms. Dube!

Welcome New Staff

- Welcome to our new vice principal, **Ms. Alyssa Richard!** Alyssa is coming to us from Saseenos Elementary. Enjoy HH!
- Congratulations to **Ms. Elizabeth Kannangara**, who is coming from SCIANEW STELIETKEL. Ms. Kannangara will be teaching in primary next year. Welcome!
- Welcome to **Ms. Maxie Southern** who will be teaching primary students next year. Enjoy HH!
- Congratulations and welcome back to **Ms. Tinisha Leung**, who will be returning to HH to teach primary students next year.
- Welcome **Ms. Lynelle Ridewood**, who is coming from SCIANEW STELIETKEL to teach intermediates this year.
- Welcome back to **Mr. Brendan Martin**, who is already returning to a temporary EA position at HH in September.

Back to School 2026

The first half-day of school for students in **Grades 1-5 is Tuesday, September 8th from 8:30 am -11:38 am**. Students will return to last year's classes for the first few days of the new school year before moving to new classes. This is our long-standing District-wide practice as we work to ensure all new registrations have seats in our District schools. Students will be met by members of the HH staff in the morning. This year we have a few new staff, so students will not necessarily be meeting their previous teacher.

Once the District give schools approval to move to our new classes (typically within the first week), children will be introduced to their new teachers for the coming school year. **Unfortunately, we are unable to take any requests regarding student placements.** Please refer to the *Student Placement Process* sent to all families in May of 2025 for information about the complex work of class configurations and the many considerations involved. Currently, we are full at Hans Helgesen and unable to accommodate any additional registrations.

New Students

Children who are new to Hans Helgesen are asked to bring a parent to meet some of our staff in the library at 8:40 on the first day of school for a welcome and introduction to Hans Helgesen. We anticipate 13 new students in Grades 1-5 arriving on the first day. Following the welcome, these students will be met by various HH staff and some student leaders. New students will be working alongside grade level peers for the first few days until students are assigned to new classes. At the end of the day, new students may be met by parents outside the front entrance, near the flagpole, for after-school pick up.

What to bring on the first day

Students will not need to bring their school supplies for the first morning of school. Students should bring a recess snack on the first day and be prepared to play outside in all weather.

First Week Schedule (Grades 1-5)

- Tuesday, September 8th (Grades 1-5)
 - o 8:25 - first bell
 - o 8:30 - classes begin (return to last year's class; new students meet in library)
 - o 11:38 - 3 hour early dismissal (buses run early)
- Wednesday, September 9th (Grades 1-5) - First full day (8:30 - 2:38)

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Our new Kindergarten children will be joining us for their "**Gradual Entry**" on **Thursday, September 10th from 1:00 - 2:00 pm**. Kindergarten children will then attend alternating half-days on Friday, September 11th and Monday, September 14th. Tuesday, September 15th is a morning session for all Kindergarten children. Wednesday, September 16th is the first full day of Kindergarten. **All Kindergarten families will receive a separate email today with information about their child's gradual entry schedule.**

Thank you!

As we finish this school year, I would like to thank the Hans Helgesen school community for your kindness and support of our staff. It is a true pleasure to work with your children and this incredible group of educators. We are already excited about next year!

Congratulations to all our HH students for their efforts as keen learners, kind friends and responsible citizens.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,

Karen Sjerven



Karen Sjerven (she/her)

Principal

Hans Helgesen Elementary School

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<https://hanshelgesen.web.sd62.bc.ca/>

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