

BIRDSEYE VIEW

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



Dear Hampstead School Families,

Winter has been an exciting and joy filled season of learning, celebration, and community at Hampstead School! Our students have been busy exploring new ideas, building new skills, and taking part in experiences that make our school such a special place.

One of the highlights of the season has been our school wide focus on the 2026 Winter Olympics. Students immersed themselves in the spirit of the Games through a variety of activities, including our very own Hampstead Olympics Day, indoor and outdoor events, and a memorable Curling and Chili evening. A special thank you goes to our physical education teacher, Mr. St. Goddard, and his dad, Mark, who built a curling rink right on our field. Their hard work gave students and families a unique opportunity to try curling together and enjoy the winter weather in true Olympic style.

We also celebrated I Love to Read Month, which brought even more energy into our hallways. Guest readers visited classrooms, students competed in a lively Book Battle, and every class participated in Reading BINGO - earning a well deserved pizza party by reading together as a team. It was inspiring to see our students' enthusiasm for books grow each day.

Hampstead School continues to shine as a place where students feel supported, encouraged, and connected. This winter, Mrs. Valka has been working hard to organize our upcoming talent shows, giving students a chance to showcase their many gifts. We can't wait to see the creativity and courage they bring to the stage.

As we look ahead to spring, even more exciting opportunities await. Students can look forward to Family Games Night, Pow Wow Club, Folk Dance, and our always anticipated Field Day. These events bring our community together in meaningful ways and help students build memories that last well beyond the school year.

We are especially excited to welcome all families on **Thursday, March 19th** for our **Celebration of Learning**. This special evening gives students the chance to proudly share their growth and accomplishments. We'll have pizza, activities, and door prizes - an event you won't want to miss. Please sign up for your conference time using the link that has been e-mailed to you. We are so proud of your students and look forward to seeing them show off their learning!

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of the Hampstead School community. Together, we make this a place where every child can learn, grow, and thrive. We look forward to welcoming you into the school on Thursday evening.

Warmly,

Pam MacDonell, Principal, Hampstead School



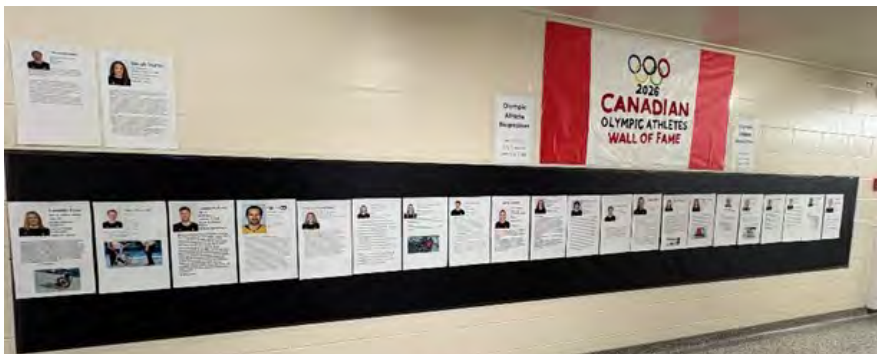
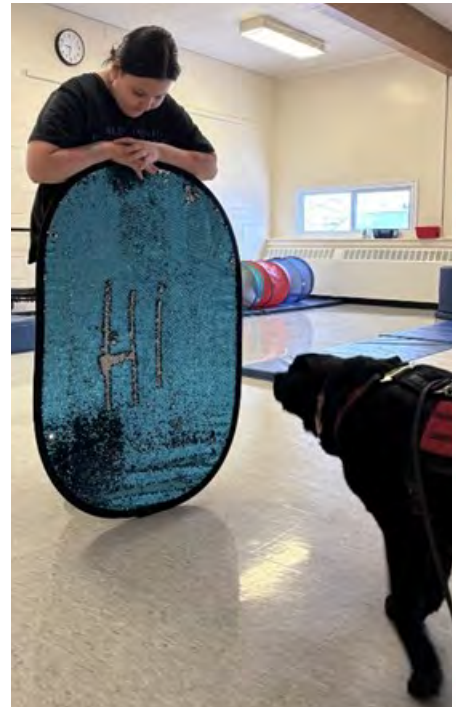
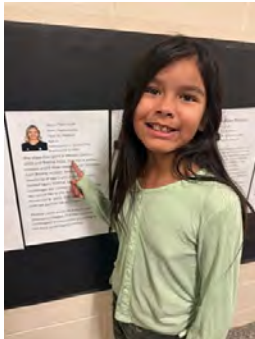


OLYMPIC DAY



News from Room 6 (Mrs. Klassen's class)

We worked hard this term celebrating the 2026 winter Olympics while also learning some skills with writing biographies! We made a full display in the upper years hallway to display our work and share the Olympic spirit! It has been neat to watch our chosen players compete in the sports we watch at school! Sound is a grade 4 unit that we are currently studying, and you will see a picture of us doing some matching puzzles to learn the parts of the ear and their functions. In January, our class was fortunate enough to take a field trip to the Manitoba Museum to learn all about the first peoples and the bison. We got to make our own tipi, explore the old town, dig up fossils, and go into the Nonsuch! We had the great opportunity to have a therapy dog named Cayer come to our class! We each got to spend some time with her, pet and cuddle with her and chat! Room 6 has had a very busy and intriguing term two!



News from Room 15 (Mr. Walker's class)



This term, our class embarked on a rich, hands-on inquiry project that wove together Science, Social Studies, writing, technology, and lots of outdoor learning. Students explored our local ecosystem and the animals that share our community—especially how they survive the challenges of winter. We spent time outdoors observing clues, asking questions, and wondering about how different animals adapt to the cold. These observations inspired our research projects, writing tasks, and class discussions.

A key part of our learning included understanding how early European newcomers survived their first winters in what is now Manitoba. Students learned how newcomers relied on Indigenous knowledge about food, shelter, clothing, and the land. This helped them appreciate the importance of Indigenous teachings and the deep understanding Indigenous peoples have of the local environment.

Using books, videos, digital tools, and our own field notes, students researched local winter animals and created written pieces to share what they discovered. They worked hard to combine facts, their own ideas, and new vocabulary, and they were excited to teach their classmates what they learned.

Our learning also culminated in a creative design project where students were challenged to design a road or street sign that would help people drive safely around the mammals in our neighbourhood. Their thoughtful ideas reflected both their understanding of local wildlife and their commitment to keeping our community safe.

We wrapped up our inquiry with a special visit to the Zoo to learn about polar bears—on a very windy International Polar Bear Day! It was a memorable way to connect our classroom learning to real-world experiences.

It was a wonderful term filled with curiosity, collaboration, and meaningful connections to the world around us. I'm proud of the thoughtful questions students asked and the enthusiasm they brought to every part of our inquiry. We're looking forward to building on this learning in the months ahead!



Mrs. Sran's Kindergarten Class: Highlights

Our kindergarten students have been busy learning and growing!



We explored the Seven Sacred Teachings. Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth. These teachings guide us to be kind, generous, and helpful every day. Students read stories connected to the teachings and wrote about ways to show kindness.



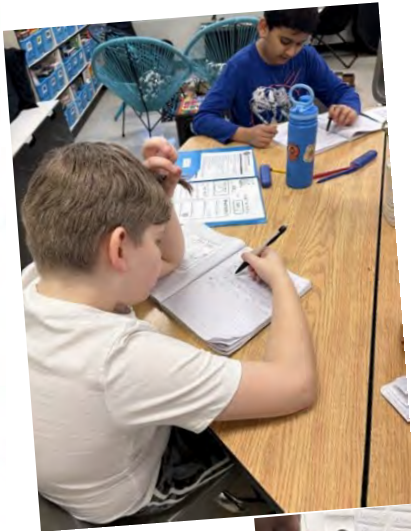
Celebrating Our Learning in Room 3 (Ms. McAuley's class)

This February, our class explored many exciting topics. For Black History Month, we researched inspiring Black Canadians and activists who have made a difference in the world. We learned about their achievements in sports, science, art, and human rights. We can't wait to share what we discovered.

We also had fun learning about the Winter Olympics! As part of this, we learned about persuasive writing. Each of us chose an Olympic sport and worked hard to convince readers why it was the best. We are proud of how much stronger and clearer our writing has become.

Another big project this month was creating historically accurate Fur Trade displays. We worked in groups to represent different time periods and learned what life might have been like during that era.

Throughout all these projects, we strengthened our research skills by learning how to find reliable information. Room 3 has grown so much this term, and we can't wait to see what we will explore next!



Spring Newsletter Room 8

(Ms. Bilous/Ms. Noveler's class)



We have been very busy learning in room 8! This term, we worked with Ms. Tommi to learn all about Treaties, Reconciliation, and land acknowledgements.

We spent a lot of time crafting our own land acknowledgements and now take turns reading them on the announcements daily! We also dove into learning about the Seven Sacred Teachings and Olympics.

We enjoyed watching some of the events and then getting to try some of them during our Winter Olympics Day at school! This past month of February has been busy, with I Love to Read activities, a walk to Munroe library, and special guest readers.

We have also been learning about and discussing Black History Month.



Ski Festival!

On March 3rd, the grade 5s were invited to participate in a Ski Festival at the Windsor Park Nordic Centre. Spirit North, a charity Hampstead has worked with for several years, provided this opportunity for free to our students. At the Cross-Country Ski Festival our students got practice going downhill, some even braving some moguls! Then we were off to make Bannock over the fire with our leader, Gabby. After that, we got to play some games on skis before heading off for our lunch. Following lunch, some students participated in a ski race against middle school students. Hampstead students were fast and won some great prizes! We are so grateful to Spirit North for providing this fun opportunity for our students.



Spirit North is a national charitable organization that uses land-based sports and activities to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous youth, empowering them to become unstoppable in sport, school, and life. Learn more about them at: <https://spiritnorth.ca/>



March Update from Mrs. Enns' Grade 1/2 Class

Do you know what **Procedural Writing** is? It's when you write the steps on **HOW TO DO** something. We read lots of **How To** picture books.



We noticed that **How To** books usually have a **list** of supplies needed and **steps** to follow. Sometimes, they even include a **tip**!

Then as a class we wrote the steps for things that are familiar to us like **How to Get a Cup of Water** and **How to do Discovery Time**. Next, we ate popsicles for a **How To Eat a Popsicle** write! This was so yummy and fun!



After that, we wrote our own **How To** books!



Winter Outdoor Learning Adventures in Mrs. White's Kindergarten Class



This winter, our kindergarten learners have been busy exploring the outdoors and engaging in hands on learning experiences.

One of our favourite activities was colour mixing in the snow. The children experimented with red, yellow, and blue paint, discovering how new colours appeared when mixed together. They painted the snow, created colourful snow castles, and proudly shared their discoveries with friends.



We also went on a nature walk inspired by the story "Winter's Gifts". Together, we looked for "special treasures" that Mother Earth offers us during the winter season. The children were delighted to find natural materials and use them to create beautiful ice sculptures, which proudly hung in our courtyard for everyone to enjoy.

To extend our learning, we explored ice sculpture building using brightly coloured cubes of ice. The children worked together to design and build their own creations, experimenting with balance, structure, and creativity.



From the Library – Booked Solid with Imagination!

What a whirlwind of fun, learning, and creativity it's been! Our school has been buzzing with book excitement, Minecraft magic, and hands on projects that turned classrooms into mini worlds of discovery.

Adopt-A-School Grant from Indigo

We have purchased 17 boxes filled with brand-new books! The library looks like a book avalanche (the safe, exciting kind). Students will soon be diving into the new titles like excited explorers uncovering hidden treasure.

I Love to Read Month

Guest readers arrived like story superheroes, sharing funny, inspiring, and exciting books. Our Battle of the Books had two books going head to head each week and students voted for their favourite. The Reading Olympics challenged classes to stretch their reading muscles and go for the gold! Our hallways were practically glowing with book joy.

When Teachers Team Up, Magic Happens!

Mrs. Thomas has joined forces with several classroom teachers to transform ordinary lessons into extraordinary adventures filled with imagination, curiosity, and just a little bit of Minecraft sparkle. Students have used their knowledge of rocks and minerals to build a world of attractions using igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock. Others have stepped back in time to create dioramas that tell the meaningful story of Europeans first contact with Indigenous people. And one class is just embarking on a journey into the Pimachiowin Aki Minecraft world experiencing a mix of culture, land based learning, and digital wonder. Through these exciting co-teaching adventures, students discovered just how magical learning can be when imagination and collaboration join hands.

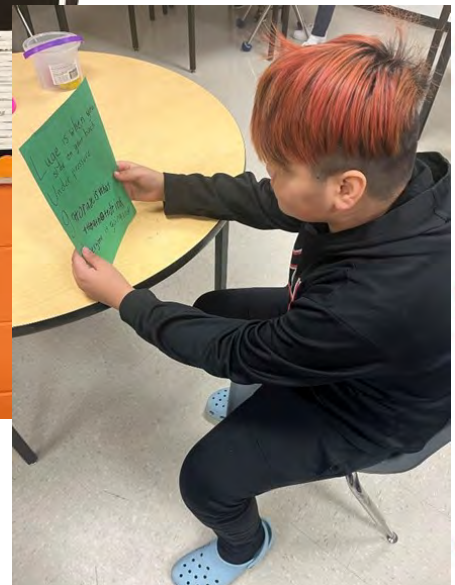
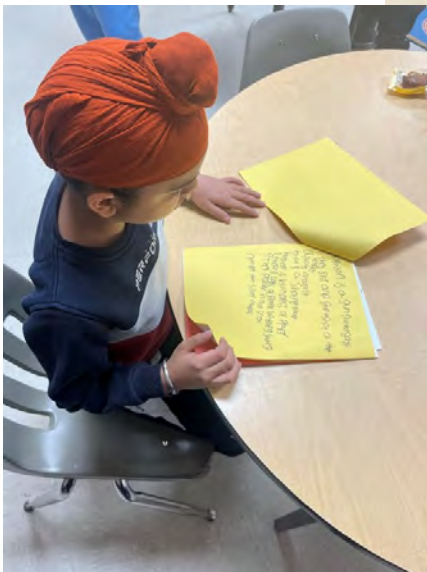
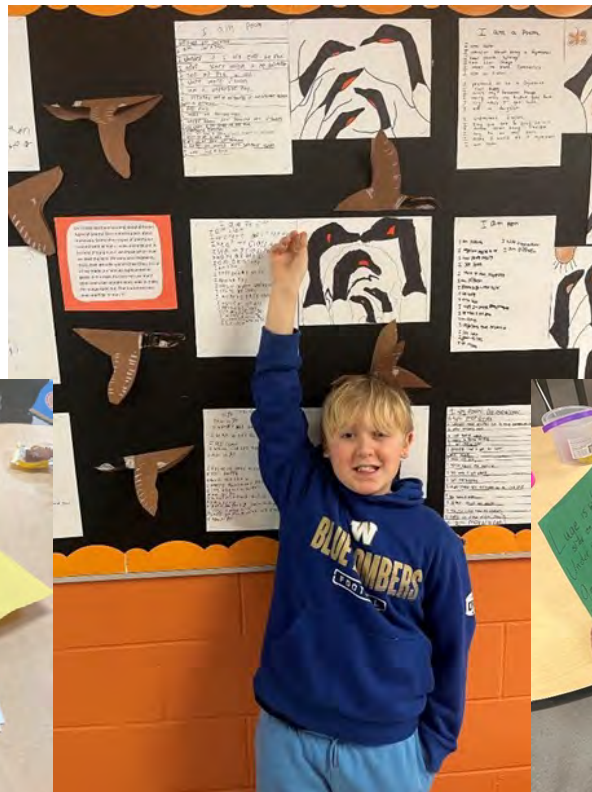


News from Room 1 (Mr. Willms' class)

In Mr. Willms grade 4 class, we have been learning about different styles of poems, such as acrostics, ballads and haikus.

We worked very hard to create our own poems using these strategies. Every poem has its own theme that we agreed on as a class. You can see some of our poetry books in the pictures below!

We have also been learning about the Ojibwe artist Benjamin Chee Chee. He makes art with very little detail but uses dark and smooth lines. Most of his art includes geese and sometimes the sun. We created our own version of his art that represents our families. We hope you like our work!



Notes From the Music Room

We explored a lot of different topics this term in the music room!

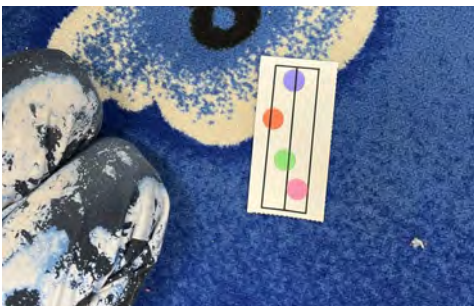
For **Black History Month**, the younger grades listened to a variety of Black musicians and experienced their songs through movement. Pictured below is Mrs. Acheson's class using lights to showcase the different colours mentioned in Stevie Wonder's "What a Wonderful World." The upper grades did a West African Drumming unit using our tubano drums. They learned patterns using different hand techniques, and other percussion instruments commonly used in West Africa.



As part of our **Winter Olympics Day**, every Hampstead student learned and sang "I Believe" during the opening ceremony. The empowering lyrics opened conversations about what it means to be confident, resilient, and to believe in yourself while cheering on those around you!



Students have also been creating their own **melodic patterns** through improvisation on the xylophones, and notating their creation on a 2, 3 or 5-line staff.



We can't wait to continue making melodic and rhythmic sounds in the music room for Term 3!



The Beautiful Game of Curling

This term in physical education class the students from kindergarten to grade 5 experienced the beautiful game of curling out on the Hampstead Curling Rink.

Along with learning the rules and strategies of the game of curling, students were also able to practice how to safely maneuver their bodies on a slippery ice surface. With our city frozen for much of the calendar year, this is an important skill for our community to learn to keep themselves safe in their daily lives.

I want to send a big thank you to Mr. Labiuk (Hampstead School custodian) and the many grade 4/5 students that volunteered their time to help clear the snow from the rink for daily use.

We were able to get 5 weeks of play on the rink in physical education classes along with a successful curling club. It was a blast teaching the students curling and I look forward to it again in 2 years.

Sweep on Hawks!



Winter Olympics in Room 16

Do you like the Olympics? In room 16, we love the Olympics! The Olympics have ski jumping, hockey, cross country skiing, figure skating, luge, skeleton and more. The Olympics is important because it brings countries together. Countries from all over the world send athletes to compete at the Olympics. We made flags to represent all the countries participating in the Olympics for a display at the front of our school. The Olympics only happens every 4 years! This year it was hosted in Italy from February 6 - 22!

In our classroom we watched different Olympic sports and cheered on Team Canada. We learned about all the different events in the Olympics. Canada won 21 medals. They had 5 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze.

We did lots of Olympic design challenges. We built our own ski jumpers using straws to blow our ski jumpers in the air. We made skiers and snowboarders using pipe cleaners and popsicle sticks. We raced our snowboarders and skiers down a wooden ramp. We made figures skaters with paper, paper plates and paper clips. We then used magnets to make them dance around on the plate.



We had our own Olympic day at school on February 11th. It was an amazing fun day! During our Olympic day we participated in lots of activities. We did cross country skiing, snow shoeing, figure skating, floor hockey, broomball, sledding and ski jumping. Mr. Walker made us a bonfire to help us warm up. Olympic Day was the best day!

We had lots of fun learning about the Olympics this month!

Magnets and Millimeters!

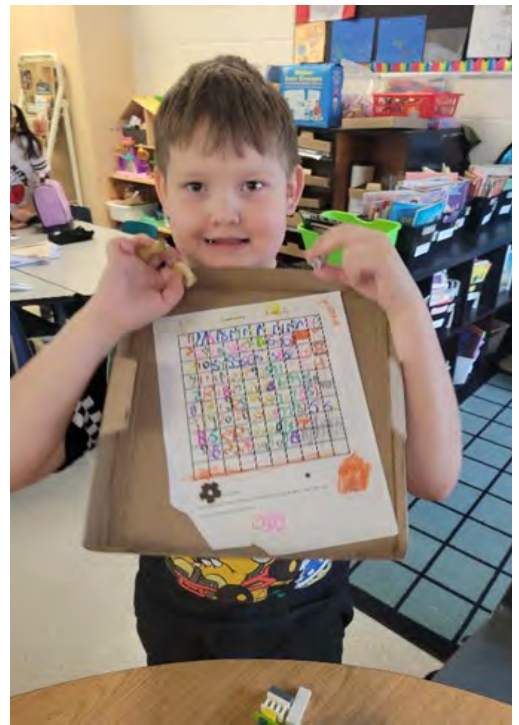
Mrs. Valka's Class (Room 4)

In room 4 we are studying magnetism and measurement. These are our two main areas of focus for March. We are using our knowledge of magnetism to create a game that we will share with our guests at the celebration of learning on March 19th!

We have also learned how to use various tools to measure distances great and small. We have learned how and when to use rulers, tape measures, meter sticks and long-distance measurement devices.

We also read the novel *Hockey Night in Kenya* by Danson Mutinda and Eric Walters. During this novel study we learned about parts of a story and how to develop and write a character sketch. We enjoyed reading the book very much and were so happy with how it ended, but no spoilers!

We can't wait to see you at the celebration of learning!



News from Ms. Inkster's Class

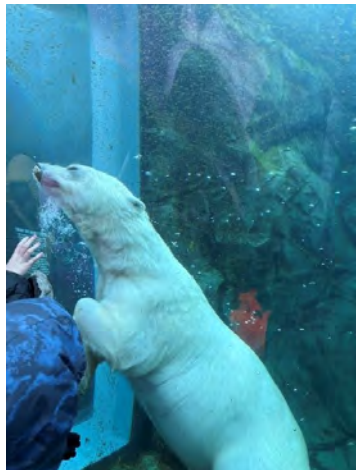
(Room 5)

Room 5 has had a very exciting few months!

We have been exploring opinion writing and how to support our opinions with reasoning as we write. This has been further explored when we played a game of Sink or Swim.

In Math we have begun our measurement unit, and we played a game that required us to measure different objects in our classroom to try to find things that met a certain length or width.

Science has focused on the environment and different animals in the world, as well as their habitats. We have also been investigating climate change and what it has done and could do to our planet and everything that lives on it. We went to the zoo to learn about animals and how they adapt to their habitats. We were lucky enough to have the polar bears decide to show off in the water, as we were walking through the water tunnel!



There are many more fun activities planned for Term 3!



Our Amazing Walking School Buses!

In January, Mr. Walker started a second walking school bus to help students get to school safely from the Panet/Munroe/Prevette areas. This route is in addition to the route Miss Debbie has been running through the Keenleyside community for several years. Between the two groups, Mr. Walker and Miss Debbie help more than of 40 students get to school daily!

That's amazing!

What is a Walking School Bus?

Walking school buses are organized groups of children walking to school with adult supervision, promoting safety and community engagement.

We truly value the connections and commitment that the walking school buses bring to Hampstead School's students and families. The students on the walking school buses have been doing an excellent job supporting one another and helping ensure everyone arrives safely to school. Being part of a walking school bus can help promote independence and leadership, and provides opportunities for families to connect while waiting for their walking school buses!

We will continue to serve both areas with walking school buses. If you are interested in your child joining one of our walking school buses, please contact the school office!

