

Departure Bay Elementary

Year: 2023-2024

Principal: Larry Dean



Our School Story Our School Goals

What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?

Departure Bay Elementary School is in close proximity to a number of spaces ideal for outdoor learning – Woodstream Park, SugarLoaf Mountain, Wardropper park, Departure Bay Beach, and Linley Valley. Many teachers incorporate place-based outdoor learning into their classroom programming.

The school has adopted Wardropper park and is working with the City of Nanaimo's Partner in Parks program. This year, an application for a Nanaimo Sustainability grant has been successfully submitted and granted. The awarded funds will be allocated towards engaging the services of a landscape designer and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to aid with our continued work in Wardropper, and the creation of a sign explaining the history and significance of 'our' park.

Waste management, energy conservation, and gardening are also areas of focus for our school community. Both students and staff collaboratively engage in activities such as recycling, composting, and minimizing energy consumption.

What are the important demographics of our school and community?

Departure Bay Elementary is situated on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. The area was the site of the Snuneymuxw winter village.

Our school has grown significantly over the past five years. Currently, the enrollment sits at just over 400 students, with 18 divisions. In the past two year, we have welcomed students from distant areas of the world as they have settled in Nanaimo, and our supporting needs of English Language Learners is a growing area of focus.

The Departure Bay catchment area is quite large, stretching from the south end of Departure Bay beach along Hammond Bay Road to past Piper's Lagoon. Many families travel a significant distance to the school from their homes. The school is located on a very busy street and on-site parking is limited, making student road safety a concern.

Our School Goals

To support student social emotional, physical, and mental well being by cultivating a belonging and nurturing school community.

To increase our connection to place to foster a sense of responsibility as stewards of the land.