OTTER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND ELEMENTARY

QUARTER 3
March 2026



PRINCIPAL'S POINTS

Quarter 4 is here! Third quarter report cards came home today, and we're officially in the final stretch of the school year—we've got this!

This is an important time of year for our students. Please continue encouraging your children to stay focused, put forth their best effort, and take pride in their learning each day. Strong attendance, completing assignments, and maintaining a positive attitude will help set them up for a successful finish.

Instruction will remain rigorous, and preparation for state testing in May (Grades 3–5) will begin to increase. Teachers will be reviewing key skills, providing practice opportunities, and supporting students in building confidence. You can help at home by ensuring your child gets plenty of rest, arrives to school on time, and has a consistent routine for homework and reading.

We're also excited to begin planning our end-of-year events, including Water/Field Days, Parents, Pastries & Portfolios, and the 5th Grade Promotion ceremony. More details will be shared soon, and we look forward to celebrating our students' hard work and accomplishments together!

As the weather warms up and routines may shift, we ask for your continued support in making sure students arrive to school on time, attend daily, and wear their school uniform. Every instructional minute counts, especially during this final quarter.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We truly appreciate all you do to help make this a successful school year for our students. Wishing you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable Spring Break!

Mrs. Brockway

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MARCH 2026

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2026

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Full day for students
No school for students
First day back for students
Early Dismissal for students
Weather make-up day, if needed
In-service day for school staff

Hilton Head Elementary School
Upcoming Events

APR 2	**PTO Meeting at 8am** Please join us for our monthly meeting.
APR 3	**No School - Good Friday** No school today!
APR 9	**5th Grade Exhibition** 8:00 – 9:30am please use overflow parking at the Christ Redeemer Church across from buses.
APR 13-17	**No School - Spring Break Week** Enjoy your spring break!
APR 22	**Students Return - Purple Up Day** Students return back to school and may wear a purple shirt and accessories with a uniform bottom!
APR 23	**The Lorax Spring Performance** Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm
APR 29	**Wellness Wendesday** Student may wear school appropriate athletic wear.
APR 30	**HHIE SIC Meeting at 8am** Please join our monthly School Improvement Council Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

PTO Meetings @ 8am
April 2nd & May 7th

SIC Meeting @ 8am
April 30th

No School Days
April 3rd

Spring Break
April 13th -17th



Notes from Mrs. Ryman
Assistant Principal

cassandra.ryman@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Field Trips-MTSS-Wellness-Carline



Wellness Challenge

- Mindfulness Minute – Spend at least one minute a day practicing deep breathing to help manage stress.

Don't forget the District Dash!



WHEN: 9 a.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026
WHERE: Coligny Beach, Hilton Head Island
Races include:
NEW! Half-Mile Kids Dash (Ages 7 & Under): $10
Student 5K (Ages 7-17): $15
Adult 5K Run / Walk $20

https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/HiltonHeadIsland/DistrictDashK



Volunteers

- Please remember to fill out your background application if you wish to volunteer in the school or on field trips. Volunteer Link Here.



Notes from Mr. O'Hara
Assistant Principal

sean.o'hara@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Safety-Testing-Bus Info

School Safety



- We have recently reviewed the District Policies regarding school safety. Safety is a top priority at Hilton Head Elementary School. We will continue to train staff members, students, and parents in essential safety procedures.

ACCESS Testing



- We have recently completed our ACCESS testing for the 2025/2026 school year. We administered over 779 tests in a 13-day period. This test measures students' progress in English as a language. Parents will receive their child's test scores in August.

SC Ready Testing

SC READY
South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessments

- The SC Ready testing window opens on May 1st for Beaufort County. Hilton Head Elementary School will conduct testing on the following days: Reading Day 1 - May 4th, Reading Day 2 - May 5th, Writing - May 7th, Math Day 1 - May 11th, Math Day 2 - May 12th, Science (4th grade only) - May 14th.
- All 3rd - 5th graders will take this test. Please ensure they get a good night's sleep before the test, eat a healthy breakfast, and attend school all day during testing.

From your Math Coach:

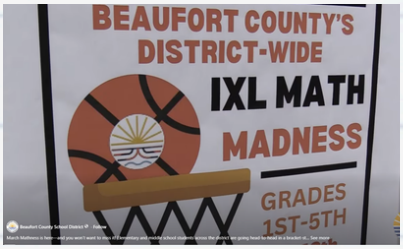
The iXL March Mathness Contest

District schools are going **head-to-head** during the **iXL March Mathness Contest**! Students can help our school win by **completing on- or above-grade-level skills** in iXL, which can be accessed through **Classlink** on student or home computers. Students need to receive a **Smart Score** of 80 or higher to demonstrate **mastery**!

Check with your **student** on his or her **progress** on the running Leaderboard, which can be accessed through the **My iXL tab**.



Good luck and work hard!



Ms. Faniola's class using manipulatives to make learning more concrete!

From your Literacy Coach:

A Quarter of Discovery: Building Strong Readers and Writers

This quarter, students in grades 1–5 have embarked on exciting **nonfiction explorations** that strengthen their reading and writing skills while diving deep into science and social studies. **First and third graders** discovered the **wonders of astronomy**, **second graders** investigated the fascinating **world of insects**, and **fourth graders** have been **"rocking" their way through geology**. Meanwhile, **fifth graders** traveled back in time to explore the **Renaissance**, studying **brilliant artists** and **thinkers** who shaped history.



Building Reading Stamina for Success

As testing season approaches, reading and writing **stamina** becomes more important than ever. Just like athletes train to **build endurance**, readers need **daily practice** to strengthen their **"reading muscles."** We encourage families to carve out time each day for reading at home—this consistent practice will help your child feel **confident** and **prepared** for longer **assessments**.

Don't forget: **Our Otters Read library is stocked with excellent books!**
Ask your child what they're currently reading!

From your IB/PYP Coach:

HHIE IB Exhibition 2026

April 9, 2026
8:00-9:30 am

The **PYP Fifth Grade Exhibition** is an **essential component** of the **International Baccalaureate Programme**. It provides an **opportunity** for students to engage in **in-depth inquiry** while **exploring** multiple perspectives and sources. It allows them to **demonstrate** synthesis and **understanding** of their previous years at HHIE and to **reflect** on their **journey** through the PYP.



Fifth-grade students must use **research skills**, **communication skills**, **self-management skills**, **thinking skills**, and **social skills** to complete all of the **requirements**. They should demonstrate all **learner** profile attributes as they design **inquiry** projects around the **six transdisciplinary themes** and all subject areas. These are **student-led** projects with topics and formats **created** entirely by the students in a small-group setting. As a result of their **learning**, students should **take action** that relates to their Exhibition inquiries.



Feburary - Honesty & Integrity

1st Grade: Raegan Menghini (Coulter)
2nd Grade: Monique Alvarenga (Black)
3rd Grade: Alice Orezco Estrada (Roberts)
4th Grade: Jade Robinson (Fernandez)
5th Grade: Laine Fackler (Quinitly)

March - Self-Control

1st Grade: Thayly Barragan Gomez (Melendez)
2nd Grade: Jacob Corets (Ziegler)
3rd Grade: Kelley Aguilar Soria (Gleason)
4th Grade: Brayan Gatica Alvino (Robertson)
5th Grade: Mckenzie McDonough (Sparks)

未 Chinese Special 鶴

This past quarter students explored Chinese New Year, the Lantern Festival, and zodiac animals.

- **Grade 5**: Created **dialogues** using colors, school, family, and greetings; continued Pinyin. **Immersion students** studied **Chinese literature** and wrote self-introductions with AI.
- **Grade 4:** Practiced **calligraphy** with a Chinese poem, presented on color symbolism, and continued Pinyin; Immersion students read a **Chinese story**.
- **Grade 3:** Learned about **Chinese food,** numbers (1–100), and culture; played number bingo. Immersion students practiced **reading**.
- **Grade 2:** Continued numbers (1–100) and explored **lucky/unlucky numbers**.
- **Grade 1:** Learned numbers (1–10); made a **number snake** and lantern. Immersion students made mini fans and practiced **phone numbers**.






♫♪ Music Special ♪

This semester was full of instruments. Our **5th graders** learned the basics of how to play the **ukulele**, including **chords** and a **C major scale.**

The **3rd and 4th graders** worked on the recorder in preparation for the annual **Link-Up concert**. The **3rd graders** are doing a great job learning how to hold and play the **recorder**.

In **1st and 2nd grade** talked about **notes, rests** and how music moves.



ACTION Studio Special POPCORN

IB Learner Profile in Studio

1st grade **Thinkers** have been studying Costume and Prop Design.

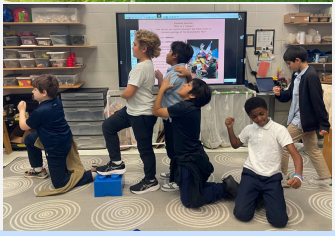
2nd grade **Risk Takers** used creative movement to act out Plant and Animal Life Cycles.

3rd grade **Communicators** have been debating Survival of the Fittest with their puppets.

4th graders have been **Reflecting** on the Revolutionary War by creating Tableaux.

5th grade **Inquirers** have been learning how to use The Arts to market and promote their Exhibition topics.






Hola Spanish Special

UNIT SPOTLIGHT

This quarter, students are exploring:
"How do our choices about **food**, meals, healthy **habits**, and our **senses** help us care for ourselves—and how do different cultures approach **wellness**?"

Through IB-aligned **investigations**, they're discovering how food **nourishes** their bodies, why healthy **habits** matter, how their senses guide their **choices**, and how Spanish-speaking **communities** around the world care for themselves through unique food **traditions** and practices.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE LEARNING

Grade 1: Identifying body parts and learning how food gives us energy to **grow** and play.

Grade 2: Exploring different food groups and discovering how our senses help us enjoy and choose **healthy** foods.

Grade 3: Investigating **cultural** food traditions and understanding how healthy habits support both our bodies and emotions.

Grade 4: Analyzing **sustainable** food systems and making mindful choices that care for ourselves, our communities, and the planet.

Grade 5: Examining **global** food systems and understanding how our choices impact health, equity, and environmental responsibility.

Media Special

BIG SALE

Yearbook Sales Are Now Open!

Don't miss the chance to reserve your copy of the 2025–2026 Yearbook, using the QR code below.

We order only the exact number of yearbooks that are pre-purchased and do not order extras.

We are excited to announce the winners of our Yearbook Cover Contest!

WINNER



STEAM Special

During the third quarter of STEAM we were busy!

1st grade had fun **investigating** the moon, stars, and seasons. We also had some St. Patrick's Day fun and grew a rainbow.

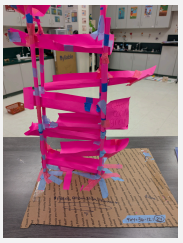
2nd grade was busy with animals and their **habitats**. In groups they designed their own 3D habitat.

3rd grade investigated magnetic forces. They were **challenged** with designing a magnetic maze and moving a magnet through without touching it.

4th grade engineered the slowest ball run to show **energy**. Some of the ball runs were entered into a national competition!

5th grade planned and **created** outer space board games, 4th grade students were then invited to play them!



Art Special

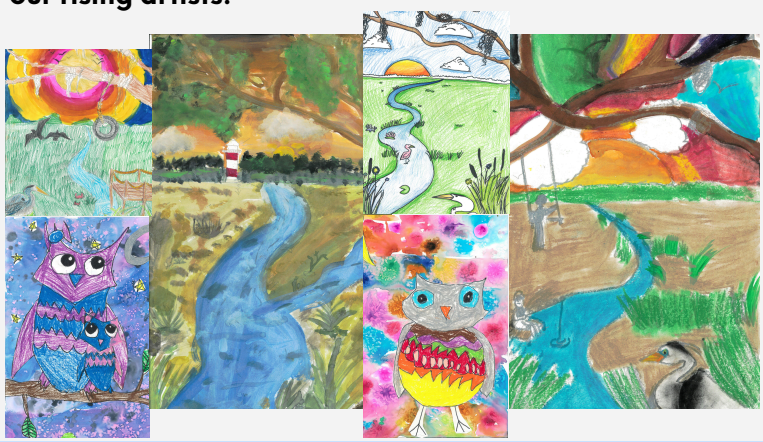
Greetings from the art room!

This semester, we have some exciting news to share!!!

Congratulations to all of our **River Of Words** winners (listed below) who have had their artwork published in the annual publication. Their work is currently **hanging in an exhibit** at the **Arts Center Of Coastal Carolina**.

Alessandra Velazquez Lopez, 5th Grade
Liannah Maguindanao, 5th Grade
Lilia Roberts, 5th Grade
Piper Surlak, 5th Grade
Adora DuBois, 1st Grade
Isabelle Cerff, 1st Grade

A **special congratulations** goes out to 3 students whose work was ALSO recognized by the **Island School Council For The Arts.** Liannah Maguindanao won 3rd prize in the junior division. Alessandra Velasquez Lopez received a **Star Of Merit**, and Isabelle Cerff received **Honorable Mention**. **We are so proud of our rising artists!**



PE Special




What Happened in PE 3rd Quarter!

Our students have been actively developing skills across multiple sports! Classes have focused on **golf**, **basketball**, and **lacrosse**—building **technique** and **teamwork**.

Special Programs
2nd Grade Swim Lessons: Students completed swim instruction at the Island **Rec Center pool**, gaining water safety & aquatic skills.

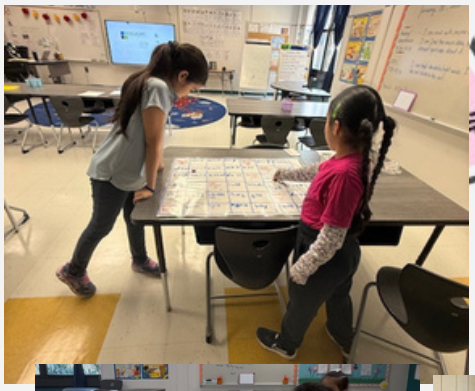
3rd Grade **Nutrition Program**: Thanks to The Clemson Extension program, 3rd graders finished an engaging nutrition curriculum to support **healthy lifestyles.**

Kids Heart Challenge – We Did It!
Congratulations to our amazing students and community! Together, we raised over **$5,000 for the American Heart Association** during the Kids Heart Challenge in February. Thank you to all our supporters!

Active Gamecocks
Students who completed the Active Gamecock activity log with **400+ minutes** have **earned free tickets** to a USC softball and baseball game! A fantastic reward for **staying active**!

Don't forget the upcoming May 14th MLP Chat! Breakfast served!

Students are **engaged** in activities such as playing SIPPS-based board games, **presenting** the bee life cycle, and **participating** in an animal habitats quiz game.







MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS



In **4th grade**, we studied light and sound waves and participated in many hands-on **science experiments**.

We are grateful to have Ms. Saconn lead and guide our **learning**. This quarter, we will **explore** geology, rock formations, and how Earth's **landscapes** change over time due to weathering, erosion, severe **weather**, and natural disasters.

It is fun to be a 4th grader at HHIE-IB!

During Quarter 3, all **ML students** completed the four **ACCESS** assessments in Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. **Scores** will be available at the **beginning** of the 2026–2027 school year.

Fifth graders also had the **opportunity** to study the **Italian Renaissance**, exploring its remarkable artists, as well as the Reformation and influential figures who **changed the world**. This unit included **Reformation**-era **scientists**, connecting to the **space** unit they were **studying** in science.

We are now **excited** to be working on **Exhibition**, where fifth graders **demonstrate** what they have **learned** throughout the IB Primary Years Programme and how they can **take action** to make a **positive** impact on the world.







Multilingual Learner (ML) **students** are **communicating** in English every day and continuing to make **strong** progress. In **English Language Arts**, students are building meaningful **connections** through their CKLA units, and their **vocabulary** continues to **grow** steadily.

In MLP Specials, students have **practiced** writing complete **sentences** and paragraphs, with a focus on restating **prompts** and clearly answering questions. During small **group** pull-out sessions, students worked on phonics, **comprehension**, and **everyday** communication skills.

In the upcoming quarter, we will focus on test-taking **strategies** to support students in grades 3–5 as they prepare for **SC READY**.

Across all grade levels, we will also continue to **strengthen** reading skills, with the goal of improving **performance** in iReady Reading.