

OTTER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND ELEMENTARY



PRINCIPAL'S POINTS

QUARTER 4 May 2026

Dear Families,

What a fantastic year it has been! I am so grateful for the incredible support from our parents. Your partnership in monitoring your child's academics and participating in family events helped make this year truly special. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. Please be on the **lookout** for your child's **report card**, next year's school **supply list**, and other **important summer information** that came home **today**. Wishing you a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer filled with laughter, fun, and learning. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another amazing school year!

Returning Students - Online Registration

Beaufort County School District will send the online registration link and access code around mid-July. Completion of this online registration is required annually. The registration notification will be sent via email. If your email address or phone number has changed, please contact louis.wright@beaufort.k12.sc.us as soon as possible to update your contact information. We will host a cluster registration **July 27th** for those that need **assistance with registration** or want to turn in their proof of residency.

Section 1 (provide one):

Real estate tax bill
Current signed lease
Military housing letter
Section 8 letter

Section 2 (provide one):

Utility bill
Landline phone bill
Cable bill
Current car insurance declarations page
Vehicle registration

Non-returning Students

If your child will not be returning to our school for the 2026-2027 school year, an official withdrawal must be completed. This process can be done on your child's last day of attendance or any time before August 7th.

Mrs. Brockway

SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2026							SEPTEMBER 2026						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

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



Please remember to sign up for **ParentSquare** and **download** the **app** to **receive** school **communications**.

Please remember to email hhiesattendance@beaufort.k12.sc.us whenever your student is absent. This is imperative so the absence can be determined excused or unexcused.

For daily transportation changes please email hhiestransportationchange@beaufort.k12.sc.us.

SAVE THE DATE

2026-2027

Meet & Greet
August 6th 1-3pm

First Day of School
August 7th 7:45am

Back to School
Parent Night
September 3rd 5pm



Notes from Mrs. Ryman Assistant Principal



cassandra.ryman@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Field Trips-MTSS-Wellness-Carline



Car Tags for Next Year

If you have a student **returning to HHIE** in the fall, please **hang on to your car tags**. Students will **keep** their **number** throughout their educational career at IB.



Summer Wellness Challenge

- 1: **Get outdoors** – **reduce** television and tech time!
- 2: **Stay active** – **move** together as a family!
- 3: **Hydrate** – aim to drink 64 ounces of **water** a day!



Volunteers

Be sure to **check** your volunteer **status**! If you are not a **verified** volunteer with the District or yours has **expired**, get a jump start this summer to be **prepared** for the 26-27 school year!
Volunteer Link [Here](#).



Notes from Mr. O'Hara Assistant Principal



sean.o'hara@beaufort.k12.sc.us
Safety-Testing-Bus Info

Understanding Your Child's i-Ready Report

Today your child is bringing home their **i-Ready Diagnostic report**. This report shows how your child is **performing** in **reading** and/or **math** and helps us see their strengths and areas for growth.

Here are a few key parts to focus on:

- **Overall Score** (Scale Score): This number shows your child's **current level** based on the test. It helps us measure growth over time.
- **Placement Level**: This tells you whether your child is **performing** below, on, or above grade level **expectations**.
- **Growth**: i-Ready tracks how much your child **improves** throughout the year. You may see a goal and how much **progress** your child has made toward it.
- **Skill Areas**: The report breaks down different **skills** (like phonics, comprehension, or number sense) to show where your child is doing **well** and where they may need **additional** support.

What This Means for Your Child: Every child learns at their **own pace**. This report helps teachers **plan instruction** that meets your child's individual needs and **supports** their growth.

How You Can Help at Home:

- Encourage your child to **complete** their assigned i-Ready lessons regularly.
- Read with your child and **talk** about what they are learning.
- Practice basic **math** or **reading** skills in **fun**, everyday ways.

If you have any questions about your child's report or how to support them, please reach out—we are here to help! <https://i-readycentral.com/familycenter/>

STAMP Assessment for Dual Language Immersion (Grades 3–5)

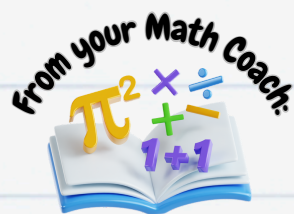
Our DLI students recently participated in the **STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency)** assessment, which is used to **measure** how well students **understand** and use a **second language** in real-world situations. These language proficiency reports are coming home with your student.

What Does the **STAMP** Assessment Measure? STAMP **evaluates** four important language skills:

- **Reading** – understanding written text
- **Writing** – expressing ideas in writing
- **Listening** – understanding spoken language
- **Speaking** – communicating verbally in the language

The STAMP assessment **helps** teachers better **understand** each student's **strengths** and **areas for growth** so they can provide **targeted** instruction and support continued language development.

Learning a new language is a **journey**, and we are **proud** of the **progress** our students are making!



Congratulations to the homeroom winners of the iXL March Mathness Contest! These classes won an hour of fun with The Math Magician :

Ms. Davis, fifth grade
Ms. Quigley, third grade
Ms. Krapf and Ms. Wang, third grade
Ms. Ford and Ms. Yang, fourth grade



Congratulations to the individual winners, who won a Lego Racecar:

Week One: Leonardo Hernandez Miller in Ms. Davis' Class
Week Two: Dana di Luzio Perez in Ms. Davis' Class
Week Three: Darwin Munivez Morales in Ms. Krapf and Ms. Wang's class
Week Four: Liam Reyes Cortez in Ms. Forman's Class



Well done, everyone!

Leonardo Hernandez Miller and Dana di Luzio Perez show off their prizes!



What an **incredible year** it has been watching our Hilton Head Island Elementary students grow as readers and writers! This **quarter** especially showcased **remarkable progress** across **all** grade levels.

Our **first graders expanded** their **vocabulary** tremendously while **exploring** animals and their habitats, using **descriptive words** to bring their favorite **creatures** to life in both reading and writing.

Second graders discovered rich new **vocabulary** through their **study of famous people**, writing inspiring **poetry** pieces and **sharing** what they learned.

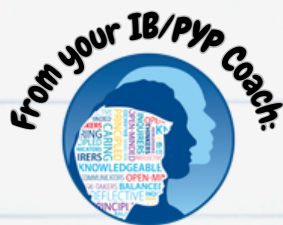
Third graders deepened their **understanding** of our **natural world** and **ecology**, developing scientific vocabulary that **sparked** curiosity about the **environment** around us.

Fourth graders tackled classic **literature** like Treasure Island, encountering **sophisticated** language and adventurous storytelling that **challenged** and delighted them.

Finally, our **fifth graders** studied **Native Americans** with enthusiasm, **learning** powerful vocabulary **connected** to culture, history, and heritage.

As we head into **summer**, I encourage every family to keep the reading **momentum** going—**visit** our public **library**, **explore** new stories **together**, and don't miss our library's **summer reading competition**. Reading during the break ensures our students return in the fall **energized** and ready to continue their literacy **journey**.

Thank you for your **partnership** in making this such a successful year!



A **team** from Hilton Head Island Elementary earned **Highest Honors** in the **WordMasters Challenge™**, a national **vocabulary competition** with nearly 125,000 students. The **third-grade** team scored 177 out of 200 on the final meet, **placing third** in the nation, and ranked sixth overall with a total score of 503 out of 600. Competing in the **challenging Blue Division**, many **HHIE students** achieved **outstanding** results. Students **scoring 50 or higher (out of 60) include:**

- **3rd grade:** Darwin Munivez Morales, James Russell, Robinson Hummel, Valentina Hernandez, Brynn Kitty, Isaiah Roberts, Trey Wright, Savannah Tatum, Kennedy Liveston
- **4th grade:** Lilly Peterson
- **5th grade:** Piper Surlak, Liannah Maguindanao, Malikai Hughes, Lilia Roberts, Ellis Russell, Annabelle Fernandez, Grey Reklau, Miles Albala, Will Tatum, Janna Arellano, Cormac McGrath

The WordMasters Challenge™ **builds advanced vocabulary** and **critical thinking** through analogy-based **problem solving**. For more information, visit: <http://www.wordmasterschallenge.com>



April- Forgiveness

1st Grade: Henna Welch (Faniola)
2nd Grade: Rex Bush (Mehle)
3rd Grade: Mariano Mullins (Rooney)
4th Grade: Andrey Contreras Cadena (Gallagher)
5th Grade: Jamareone Taylor(Davis)



May - Responsibility and Cooperation

1st Grade: Joanna Cram (Zervas-Gaytan)
2nd Grade: Stella Taylor (Halley)
3rd Grade: Lilian Alarcon-Aguado (Townsend)
4th Grade: Madelyn Corsiglia (Birth)
5th Grade: Lilia Roberts (Lugo)

未 **Chinese Special** 鶴

- **5th graders** completed their study of Chinese **pinyin** and learned about China and the **world's** population. The 5th grade **immersion** class also worked on an "About Me" dialogue.
- **4th graders** learned how to **say family members** in Chinese and studied Chinese **poems**.
- **3rd graders** learned Chinese **numbers** and **number culture**, learned about **weather** in China and Chinese **inventions**.
- **2nd graders** learned Chinese **numbers** and **number culture**, Chinese **money**, and the **Silk Road**.
- **1st graders** reviewed the **initials** b, p, m, and f, and learned how to **ask and answer** "How are you?" questions. They also explored **pandas'** habitat, growth, and **adaptations**, and made **panda face plates**.



♪ **Music Special** ♪

It's been another great quarter in **Music**!

Our **3rd** and **4th** graders attended the annual **Link-up Concert** where they were able to sing, dance, and play recorders with the Hilton Head **Symphony Orchestra**. This year's **concert** focused on famous melodies. They are still requesting to **sing** some of the songs! This event was sponsored by the **HHSO** and **Carnegie Hall**.

5th graders worked on adding **sound effects** to silent video clips and some classes wrote original rap songs.

1st and **2nd** grade learned about form, or how music is organized.

We finished everything up with **Boomwhackers** for **all** grade levels! They had a blast learning how to play and **interact** with them.



¡Hola! **Spanish Special** 🎉

This quarter, students explored "**We Take Care of Ourselves**" by studying Hispanic cultures and their approaches to wellness.

- **Grade 1:** Paraguay's geography, traditions, and music while learning about body parts, exercise, and healthy foods.
- **Grade 2:** **Spain's** culture and location through **foods**, meals, **sensations**, and healthy habits.
- **Grade 3:** The **Dominican Republic's** heritage with a focus on food, **flavors**, and the senses.
- **Grade 4:** **Cuba's** culture, traditions, and wellness practices through **meals** and daily life.
- **Grade 5:** **Guatemala's** geography, customs, and celebrations alongside health, the human body, and **nutrition**.

Aligned with the IB PYP themes Who We Are and How We Organize Ourselves, students learned that **self-care** is a shared **value** expressed through culture, traditions, and food across the **Spanish-speaking**





Media Special



Missed the Yearbook Deadline? Good News!

If you did not purchase your student's yearbook before the deadline, you still have an opportunity to order one.

Please note that shipping fees will apply.

Order here:

<https://www.treering.com/purchase?PassCode=101605541178246>

BIG SALE



Art Special



Greetings from the art room!

Our **IB** students are busy putting finishing touches on all of their **fabulous** work!

Thank you to those who purchased pieces to support our "framed art fundraiser." All **proceeds** directly benefit the art program here at Hilton Head Island Elementary!

Our **GT** identified students wrapped up their "**memory project**" creations, a global art program spreading kindness across **cultures** and **continents**!

These pieces will soon be **mailed** to children in **Honduras**.

As always, thank you for **supporting** the arts at HHIE!



STEAM Special



Quarter four was full of science and engineering!

Fifth grade explored states of **matter**, **acids**, and **bases** through hands-on experiments like Elephant Toothpaste, Lemon Volcanoes, and Polymer Bouncy Balls.

Fourth grade reviewed animal and **human structures** and functions and created model **X-rays** to study the bones in their hands and arms.

Third grade looked into the past, learning how **environments** change, how **fossils** form, and about Ice Age animals and dinosaurs.

Second grade investigated **states of matter** by making Oobleck, a **non-Newtonian** fluid, and explored properties of matter by creating different types of "soil."

First grade designed their own **animals** with unique adaptations. End-of-year fun included **LEGO** Disaster Island and impossible domino challenges.



PE Special



What's Happening in PE This Quarter!

Our students have been **actively** developing skills across **multiple sports**!

Classes have focused on **pickle ball**, **golf** and we even got to walk to HHIHS and practice on their **tennis** courts.

5th grade students are **finishing** up their **Fitnessgram** fitness **tests** for the second time this school year.

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the **PTO Fun Run** and who earned their **USC baseball** and **softball tickets** from **Active Gamecocks**!

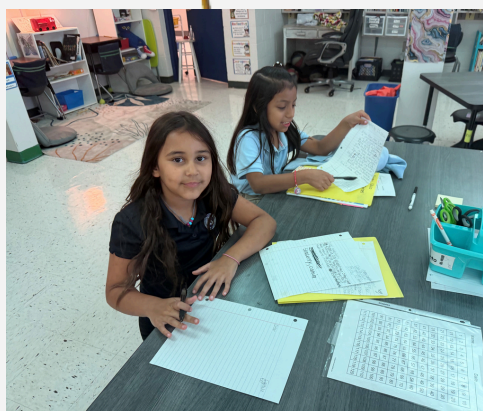


Our MLP Chat was a huge success!

Parents **engaged** with our MLP team learning ways they can **support** their **student's** at home. The Nutrition Group and **Hilton Head Library** were there to offer **summer program** information.



Our **4th graders** recently completed their **geology** unit, learning about rocks and how they can **contribute** to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis. In our final unit, we studied the American Civil War.



Multilingual Learners Shine in the Fourth Quarter!

During the fourth quarter, **MLP students in grades 1–5** continued to grow and thrive, **demonstrating** meaningful progress in listening, reading, writing, and speaking English. Their **hard work** and dedication were evident in every area of language **development**.

The HHIE Multilingual Learner Program (MLP) team also **hosted** its third **MLP Parent Meeting**, Morning Chat.

This **event** brought families **together** to **connect** with community partners, access valuable **resources**, and receive **engaging**, differentiated summer learning **materials**.

Families left with tools such as **vocabulary** games, sentence-building activities, and hands-on **math** manipulatives—all designed to **support continued** learning and help **prevent** summer slide.

Our **5th grade** ML students have been busy taking **SC READY** tests in reading, writing, and math, while continuing their **CKLA** unit on Native Americans and their **American history** timeline. Student's were proud to share their **portfolios** with parents and **end-of-year activities**.

We used every day leading up to **Promotion Day** learning and preparing for 6th grade. Students have **completed** Quarter 4 work and assessments, which will be reflected in their report cards and **shared** with the middle school.

