



George Bonner News

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Principal – Mrs. Updesh Cheema & Vice Principal – Ms. Del Morgan Phone: 250-743-5571

Principal's Message

Wow! December holidays are upon us... Our classes are busy with winter festivities. Each class will be celebrating the season in their own way and I hope you get a little glimpse of the celebrations through home and teacher communications. The students are all practicing for the Winter Concert, 'Home for the Holidays'. Looking forward to their performances.

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays and wish you all the very best in the coming year - From Mrs. Updesh Cheema and The George Bonner Staff.

See everyone back at school Monday, January 8th 2024.

Snow- and Ice-Covered Areas

As the nights get colder there may be areas of the parking lot, sidewalks, and playground that freeze at night making them slippery in the mornings. During the winter months, when it snows overnight or when conditions are very cold and icy, the school district maintenance department dispatches staff to help clear ice and snow. However, please note that staff are often not able to clear all sites before school starts in the morning. A reminder to please be careful during drop-off/pick up times and watch out for icy and slippery areas. Areas that receive little or no sun during the day are especially slippery.

Mrs. Cheema and Ms. Morgan will also apply ice melt to problem areas on cold, icy mornings. However, please be aware that due to the sheer size of the paved area at George Bonner there may still be slippery areas in the winter months. If you encounter a slippery spot, please let the office know immediately so the area can be attended to. Thank you and please watch your step on cold mornings!



Fruit & Veggie Program

Fruit & Veggie program provides local BC grown fruits and vegetables twice a month.

Playground

Playground and fields are wet and muddy this time of year. We suggest that ALL students have a change of clothing in their backpack, so that they do not need phone their families for clothing. Please ensure that your child has a pair of running shoes to wear in the gym.

A reminder that unless it is raining VERY heavily, students are outside every day for 45 minutes during the lunch/recess break. Please make sure that your child(ren) come to school dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. A reminder to please label all clothing as our lost and found area is currently overflowing with unlabeled items. **Lost and found items are located in the lower atrium.**



Winter Celebrations

Many thanks to all the students, teachers, staff and Ms. Baxendale for all the work and time being put into preparing for the Winter Concert. These are great moments to cherish of the season. The Winter Concert 'Home for the Holidays' will take place: Tuesday, December 19th Divisions 1, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 21, 22.

Wednesday December 20th Divisions 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20.

Performances - 1 pm & 6:30 pm (arrive at 5:45 pm).

Each class will sing two songs. Every voice is important to make our concert a success. It is important that every child makes their best effort to attend this concert.

There will be a finale where all the children will come back onto the stage and sing a song. If you have questions, contact nbaxendale@sd79.bc.ca (Ms. Baxendale).



Inclement Weather:

Power Outages

When we have a power outage, school is still in session, unless where health, welfare, or safety of the students is in jeopardy. As the parent, it is your prerogative to keep your child at home should the weather present problems.

If power goes out during the school day, Parent/Guardians will be contacted if the district decides it is unsafe for students to be in the school.

The school bell to the right is the old fashion bell we use when we have no power:)



If the Superintendent needs to officially close one or more schools for the day due to inclement weather, these closures will be reported on The Q! (100.d FM), The Zone (91.3 FM), JUICE FM (89.7), CBC FM (90.5), CFAX FM (1070) and CTV VI News by 6:00 am. Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/CowichanSchools/>, and Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/cowichanschools>)

will occur as soon as possible. Typically, schools are only closed when it is unsafe for school buses to travel on the roads, or if there has been an extended power failure causing the schools to become too cold. The 2022/32 winter weather information for parents is now posted on the school district website.

<https://sd79.bc.ca/inclement-weather-information-2022-23/>

Personal Electronic Devices (cell phones)

Please note that during the school day, all electronic devices **must** be stored in backpacks or lockers and must not be used.

Children do not have permission to take pictures of one another other than as directed by a teacher for a school project. Even for this purpose, the school must collect release forms for each student each year if these images are to be posted online in any way. Students cannot give permission to their friends to post images of themselves.

Home: Have a conversation with your child about responsible usage of social media. It is important that children understand that virtually anybody can see what is posted on the internet and there are often ways for people to get around privacy settings. Although your child's use of social media might be innocent and appropriate, they are still open to hurtful comments from anyone. This is not to say that access to these

programs should be denied, but rather that there needs to be conversations and instruction about safe and appropriate usage.

Possible ideas for guiding conversation or practice of use of social media might include insisting that your child includes you as a follower or "friend" so that you are able to see their posts, having them share their login information with you, and going through the privacy settings with your child to ensure that only people they know are able to interact with them online.

Food Drive

Each year in December, George Bonner Elementary collects nonperishable food items for local families in need.

Any contributions are greatly appreciated! Simply send a non-perishable food item to school with your child any time before December 15th. The donation box will be located near the office. Thank you in advance for helping to make the holidays a little brighter for local families.

Parking



Thank you for driving slowly through the parking lot. Reminder that the speed limit in front of the school is 30km/h from 8:00am until 5:00pm. Please drive carefully. Please do not park close to the entry gates as it is difficult for busses to get by. Thank you for helping to keep all children safe!

Late Student Attendance

When children arrive late;

- They miss out on morning routines for the classroom and school.
- The teacher and other students in the classroom are interrupted.
- There may be sad feelings of being left out or not knowing what is going on in the classroom.
- It often takes the child a while to fit back into the routine of the morning.
- The beginning of school is **8:30 am**.

Supervision begins at 8:15 am

8:30 a.m.

11:15-12:08

12:08-12:18

2:18 p.m.

Classes begin

Lunch (play time)

Lunch (eating time)

Dismissal

Supervision ends at 2:35 pm



ANY ALLERGIES, MEDICAL ISSUES

Please let Rebecca or Dawn – secretaries, in the office know as soon as possible if your child has any medical issues.

Have you moved recently?

Are you moving or have you moved?

Do you have a new address since September?

Do we at Bonner's Office have your new address?

Please let us know: 250-743-5571 or georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca

WITS

At George Bonner Elementary we believe it is important to take care of yourself, each other, and your community. One of our main goals is to help students to solve problems in peaceful ways.

The WITS program is emphasized throughout the year. We have been using this program for a few years and it is a very helpful reference for children of all ages.



"Mo"vember

November was "Mo-vember" organized by Mr. Burgess. Students could purchase stick-on mustaches, or create their own, some of the male staff members also grew mustaches to raise money. So far, more than \$800 has been raised to help support men's health. We will finalize the total amount raised soon. Thank you to Mr. Burgess for organizing and thank you to all students and staff who participated. Thank you for your support!

Multicultural Recognitions:

This time of year, there are many celebrations that occur around the world. We are so fortunate to learn from one another about these wonderful celebrations:

Christmas Dec. 25th; Kwanzaa Dec. 26th; Hanukkah Dec. 18 - 26th; Posadas Dec. 16th -24th; Feliz Navidad Dec. 25th; and Winter Solstice Dec. 21st.

We wish all the families who celebrate these various traditions all the best in their celebrations.

Sports Update

Basketball for grade 4-7 students is coming to an end with Tournaments taking place over the next few weeks. Good luck to all our students in their tournaments. Thank you to Mr. Burgess, Ms. Cadorette, Ms. Archer, Ms. Hallet, and Ms. Tibble for organizing the basketball practices and tournaments. Ms. Sorenson is offering once a week Mindful Movement for all age groups. Mr. Boan-Mitchell has organized Chess club for the any interested students wanting to play Chess. The George Bonner Rock Band is organized by Mr. McDonald once a week.

Thank you to all staff for volunteering to run lunch time clubs and sports.

Kindergarten Registration Dates for September 2024-25

Registrations will take place the following weeks:

French Immersion and Mill Bay Nature School: January 15th.

George Bonner Elem.: January 29th- Feb. 2nd 2024

PAC CORNER

PAC Meetings.

Check the PAC Facebook page.

All parents are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

PAC Facebook page has information and important dates

<https://www.facebook.com/GBEPAC>

Monday Muffins – This takes place every Monday morning. Students may come and get a muffin at the front of the school. Nut and peanut free. No cost.

For more information, you contact Kathy Lowry at gbmondaymuffins@gmail.com.

Winter Market: Dec. 1st & 2nd:

Our PAC parents have been working non-stop this Fall – Come out and support our Winter Market!

Pancake Day – November 15th – volunteers are needed. Please contact Arin Reim at treasuregbe@gmail.com

Parent Survey Re; Child Care for School-Aged students

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, we are sharing the survey information below to help inform the Province's [ChildCareBC](#) initiatives:

We know that many families depend on school-age childcare to ensure their children have a quality, affordable, and inclusive place to be during a parent's full work day. That is why the Province's [ChildCareBC plan](#) is working to expand access to child care for all families that want and need it.

The Ministry of Education and Childcare is conducting a parent survey to better understand the regional and provincial demand for school age childcare.

While we know there is unmet demand for school-aged childcare, there is no current provincial or regional data quantifying the demand. Your participation will help the province plan for future school-aged childcare expansions.

This survey is intended for all parents, regardless of the type of childcare you currently use or even if you are not using any childcare at all.

How do I complete the survey?

The survey is now available online at:

<https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull3/minofed/main/SchoolAgeParents.asp?SchoolNumber=1642>

Please only complete the survey once. The link is intended especially for you. Please do not share the link with anyone else. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us

at ChildCareBC.Engagement@gov.bc.ca. If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the web survey provider (AWIS) at support@awinfosys.com.

We greatly appreciate your input and thank you in advance for your participation.

Who should fill out this survey?

If you have children attending Kindergarten to Grade 7 at a B.C. school, we want to hear from you about your family's childcare needs.

What will this survey be used for?

The survey results will be used to support planning for future initiatives under the ChildCareBC plan. All responses are voluntary and anonymous; you and your child will not be identified as a result of your participation in the survey. Information received will be combined and shared with your school and district as a summary.

Sincerely,

Ministry of Education and Child Care

Websites:

Bonner website <http://georgebonner.sd79.bc.ca>

Transportation

<https://sd79.bc.ca/?s=Transportation>

Cowichan Valley School District

<http://www.sd79.bc.ca>

Daily Health Assessment <https://sd79.bc.ca/covid-19-updates-health-and-safety/>



We wish you a wonderful winter break. May it be a time of love, laughter and quality time shared with family. Be Healthy and Stay Safe!

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays!

From George Bonner Staff



A Big 'Shout Out' to our wonderful local business' who have been working with George Bonner PAC to fundraise! Great Food, lots of choice and lots of love and care! Thank you!

Oma's Bakery

Mill Bay Subway

Mill Bay Little Corner Sandwich Shop

Compass Mexican Bistro

Thank you!

EA (Educational Assistance) Needed!

If interested, please email your resume to Jen Christenson, Staffing Officer and Systems Analyst, jchristenson@sd79.bc.ca or drop off at the School Board Office: 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan. Full Job is available at www.sd79.bc.ca