



George Bonner News

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

Principal's Message

October has begun with students settling, getting back into school routines, and Kindergarten students stretching their energy to stay all day at school.

We are well into October and the activities for students are getting intense and everyone is off to a great school year.

Cell phones and electronic devices

Students are asked not to bring to school, cell phones, and other electronic devices, unless your child's teacher has communicated with you via a letter of permission. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

School Goals...

Each year the school focusses on improving student learning. We use a variety of strategies that are research based to help students learn better and smarter. During the Early Dismissal Days, staff work together to help increase student achievement and communicate student learning with families.

Photo Re-Takes

Please note LifeTouch Photography will be here on Wednesday, October 25th to do photo re-takes.



VIU Pre-Service Teachers

We have VIU Pre-Service Teachers this year. This means that the Pre-Service Teachers work in partners with our Bonner Teachers (Mr. McDonald, Mr. Burgess, Ms. Ludwig and Ms. Cadorette) and gain experience and knowledge teaching in a classroom.

More information will come from the individual classrooms as the Pre-Service teachers settle in throughout the year.

ANY ALLERGIES, MEDICAL ISSUES

Please let georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca – Rebecca Moreland & georgebonnersecretary2@sd79.bc.ca – secretaries, in the office know as soon as possible if your child has any medical issues.



October 16 - 27 is Bike to School Weeks at Bonner!

We are keen to encourage children to cycle to school to:

- foster their independence.
- promote a healthy lifestyle.
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To participate there are certain rules that **must** be followed:

- All bikes must be stored (i.e. locked) in the bike rack provided at the front of the school.
- Children **must not** ride bikes within the school grounds.
- No bikes must be left at school overnight.
- Parents / Caregivers are responsible for ensuring that bikes are safe and roadworthy.
- Parents / Caregivers must give written permission for their child to participate (permission form)
- Children **must wear cycling helmets**.

This opportunity will only be open to students of grades 5, 6, and 7. Riding to school is a great way to stay in shape, gain independence, and to help reduce our carbon footprint.
Let's ride Bonner! Mr. Mel Burgess

BC Shake Out Day

On October 19th, we will be participating in the BC Shakeout event by practicing in an earthquake drill. Practicing emergency drills allows the children to be well prepared in case of a real emergency.



Metis Sessions

Coming up next week, Ms. Corrinne Chow will be visiting with all George Bonner classes to teach Metis culture lessons to students. Each class takes part in various Metis cultural activities based on their grade levels.

Sign In & Out



For safety reasons, it is very important that students, sign in and out at the school office.

If you need to take your child before the end of school, please let us know at the office and the schoolteacher. Please be sure to sign them out at the office. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

Learning Summary (Report Cards) of student progress will be sent home in November, February, and June. Throughout the year, teachers will be sending home Points of Progress that show how and what your child is learning. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher through the office 250-743-5571 or by emailing them.



Sports Update

Both the girls' field hockey and boys' soccer teams have been practicing in preparation for their tournaments later this month. Thank you to Mr. Burgess, Ms. Cadorette, and Ms. Joyce for volunteering their time to coach these teams!



Recycling Program

Classes are once again working to reduce waste. To help reduce our carbon footprint at George Bonner, we will continue with our recycling habits through our "Green Team." Classes sign up on a weekly rotation and each class cleans the school grounds.

Some classes also have bins for collecting raw vegetables or fruit pieces (cores, peels, etc.). We have monitors that collect the composted items and take them to our compost bins outside.

We are also trying to reduce our carbon footprint by recycling all our recyclables during our day, including recyclable lunch item containers. This is to meet the Recycling - **CVRD Bylaw 2108: Recyclable Materials banned from disposal as garbage.**

A Big Thank you!



- To our PAC group for giving our teachers start-up funds for the year.
- To our staff who work diligently with your child(ren) each day.

All the parents for supporting your child(ren) at home.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS, HOME PHONE, CELL PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS CHANGED

Please let us know in the office by email or leave a message if any of your contact information has changed.
georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca – Rebecca Moreland & georgebonnersecretary2@sd79.bc.ca

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:)



Multicultural Recognitions:

September – Harvest Moon Festival

Is celebrated in China and in many parts of the world. Is a symbol of family reunion and moon cakes are very much fancied and lanterns are lit.

October 31st – Halloween

Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the **tradition** to North America in the 19th century.

Halloween is a time of celebration and superstition. It is thought to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off roaming ghosts. Trick or Treating is a huge part of Halloween.

Nov. 12th – Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights

Is celebrated by families whose heritage stems back to India. People gift each other with sweets and treats.

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



Fruit & Veggie Program

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

Parking



Thank you for driving slowly through the parking lot. 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 our children safe!

FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment)

Please note that this year's Foundation Skills Assessment for grade 4 and 7 be administered between October 2nd and November 10th. The annual Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a required province-wide assessment of BC student's academic skills. The assessment provides a snapshot of how well our students are learning the foundational skills of Reading Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy. The FSA is designed by BC teachers and is linked to the redesigned provincial curriculum.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, and schools evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills and make plans to support and improve student achievement. Our district uses the data to inform our Strategic plan.

The School District and our school uses the FSA results as one measure of achievement. Other measures include classroom assessments (student and teacher), teacher observations, district literacy assessments, and report cards. We use the information from all these assessments together to establish district and school goals.

All students are required to write the FSA, unless the school principal has excused a student, based on Ministry criteria.

Terry Fox Run

The Bonner community raised almost \$900 in support of cancer research. Well done everyone and thanks to Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Griffiths, and Mrs. Baxendale for organizing!



Garden House Charity Book Sale - Saturday, October 28 & Sunday, October 29th

This is your special invitation to the 13th annual book sale which is happening once again in Bonner's multipurpose room on Saturday, October 28th from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, October 29th from 9 am to 2 pm. The usual 20,000 high quality used books, including 5,000 children's books, will be waiting to be discovered by their new owners and that could be you! All kids' books will be 50 cents, Pocket books will go for \$2, and soft and hard cover books for \$3. Exceptions include sets and coffee table books marked at \$5. The popular silent auction is back with bids starting at \$20. Be sure to check the new Christmas, Halloween, and other holiday-themed section! Pay with cash or credit card.

Bonner's senior student volunteers will once again lend a hand with sale setup and take down, along with many other adult and student helpers. For more information, please visit www.gradenhousefoundation.wordpress.com or call 250-743-4627.

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.



Halloween

A few safety reminders if your child will be Trick or Treating. Children do not always have the skills to be safe in traffic. Many children have difficulty judging speed and distance and concentrate for only short periods of time. This will be especially true with the added excitement of Halloween. In addition, there will be many strangers on the street on Halloween night. Here are some tips to help keep your child safe:



- Teach your child road safety rules and to look, listen and think about traffic!
- Know where they are! Know what they are doing! Know who they are with!
- Teach your child about personal safety and talking to strangers.
- Teach them to not go with or accept anything from someone they do not know

Weekly food hampers for students & their families - Contact school principal for more information ucheema@sd79.bc.ca



Kelsey Peer Leadership Group

Each Friday, the Kelsey Peer Leadership group will be joining us during lunch/recess times, and they will be setting different areas to join in on i.e. soccer, crafts, playground support.

PAC CORNER

PAC Meeting Monday, October 16th @ 6:30 pm in the library.

Check the PAC Facebook page and George Bonner's for any updates.

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.

Hannah Beach

Coming to George Bonner, October 11th 6:30-8:30 pm in the school Library. Parents, please come and join us.

Topic: The Power of Play: Exploring the vital role of play in emotional health and learning. For more information click: <https://hannahbeach.ca/rethink-play/>

Hannah Beach is an award-winning educator, author, emotional health consultant, and keynote speaker. She is the **co-author of the best-selling book *Reclaiming Our Students: Why Children Are More Anxious, Aggressive, and Shut-Down than Ever—and What We Can Do About It***, with Tamara Neufeld Strijack, a trauma-informed resource for teachers and parents rooted in the relationship-based approach, now being translated into multiple languages internationally (including French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Ukrainian and Korean) and has been adopted by school boards across Canada. She was recognized by the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 2017 as **one of five featured changemakers in Canada.**

COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

WE'RE
Hiring

Casual, On Call, Noon Hour Supervisors

This position is ideal for anyone who is looking for meaningful work with students. If you, or someone you know, would love to spend an hour a day with students, we would like to hear from you.

Qualifications:

- Grade 12 education
- First Aid / CPR - Occupational First Aid (OFA1)
- Valid Drivers' License

Hourly wage \$25.50

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 Description #34 available at www.sd79.bc.ca

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EVERY CHILD MATTERS

"Education is the key to reconciliation - education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it."

- HON. MURRAY SINCLAIR

Natural Curiosity