



George Bonner News

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

Principal's Message

Over the year, we have been working to build up a common set of behaviour expectations with the students by modeling how to solve problems in a peaceful manner. Because children learn in the context of everyday interactions, we have discussions frequently about how students need to treat others and themselves. We ask, “What can you learn from this situation?” “What do you need to do differently next time?”, and “How can you make it right?”

When students go to line up, or go into an assembly, we ask, “What does it look like?” “What does it sound like?”

We thank you for your support with the great conversations that go on at home about how to treat others and to solve problems in peaceful ways, even when situations get real sticky.

School Goals

Our main goals this year are Literacy and Social Emotional Learning with Indigenous Ways of Learning embedded in everything we do.

School Schedule

Supervision begins at 8:15 am

8:30 a.m.	Classes begin
11:20-12:05	Lunch (play time)
12:05-12:18	Lunch (eating time)
2:18 p.m.	Dismissal

Supervision ends at 2:35 p.m.



Lost and Found area is currently overflowing with unlabeled items. **Lost and Found items are in the Lower Atrium.**



Fruit & Veggie Program

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

Ministry Student Learning Survey

School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) is participating in the 2023 Ministry of Education Electronic Anonymous Satisfaction Survey Project in cooperation with all other school districts throughout the province. Every year, the Ministry of Education asks all parents of Grade 4, 7, 10, and 12 students to complete the survey based on your opinions of the programs and activities at their school. If you have a child attending George Bonner Elementary who is in Grades 4 or 7 please complete this survey. The link is... www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm And select your child's district, school name and language of preference. The survey closes May 3rd. Please take the time to complete the survey. Thank you.

- Under the section *Direct Access – no logon number required* select:
 - o District: the name of your child's district
 - o School: the name of your child's school
 - o Language: the language of your choice
- Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on the right arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. Click on the left arrow to navigate backwards.
- When you are finished the survey, you will get a message “Thank you for sharing your views”.
- Once complete, your school will have the results immediately.
- Thank you☺

Spring KM Challenge

Dust those runners off! Our annual Spring KM Challenge has begun. We look forward to seeing students running those laps and earning those charms. Cheers from Mrs. Thomas & Ms. O'Neill.

Sports Update

Chess club - Mr. Boan-Mitchel

Girls Soccer grades 4-7

Rugby grades 6-7

Running TC 10K – Ms. Baxendale, Ms. Archer, & Ms. Joyce, Ms. Pot, & Ms. Carter.

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

Behaviours

No parent ever wants their child to be mean, but sometimes

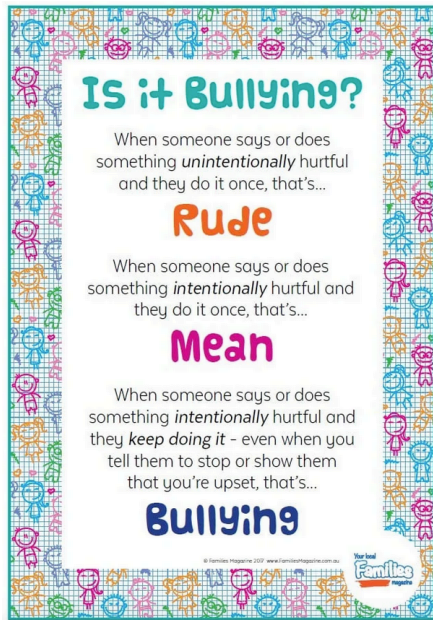
children can be very mean to one another. Talking to your child about being mean, teasing, and bullying are important conversations.

We are having many students displaying mean, teasing behaviours which can lead

to bullying, so to help with conversations at home, here is a great definition to refer to...

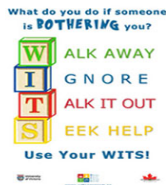
<https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/download/is-it-bullying/>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/bullying>



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.



ANY ALLERGIES, MEDICAL ISSUES

Please let our wonderful secretaries, in the office know as soon as possible if your child has any medical issues.

Earth Day - April 22nd

Many events and activities are taking place at George Bonner to focus on Earth Day - from recycling, planting seeds, learning about local plant and animal life cycles. Learning about taking care of the earth is a vital part of society and has a lasting impact on our daily routines. We do our part to be responsible citizens. Our goal is to educate so that we all may become ecologically responsible, contributing members of society. Check out their website for activities:

<https://earthday.ca/april22/campaign/earthdayathome/>



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

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.

Calendars

Please see the attached Calendars for Updated April and May and add any other dates that your child's teacher may send for these months.

Please note that Monday, April 15th is NID, which means there is no school for students.

Day of Mourning - April 28th

Flags at schools and the School Board Office will fly at half-mast on April 28 to honour those injured or killed in workplace accidents, and to renew our commitment to improve health and safety in our schools and workplaces.

Parking Lot



Both staff and parents have expressed concern regarding student drop off and pick up times at the start and end of the day. In order to ensure student safety please obey the following general rules:

- Please do not block the parking lot by stopping for too long as your child(ren) get out or into the vehicle.
 - Please have them exit on the non-traffic side of the vehicle so they are not stepping out into traffic
 - When dropping off in the parking lot area, please wait to drop off the children closest to the school so cars behind you are not tempted to pass while children are exiting the car
 - keep traffic moving through the parking lot.
- Thank you for helping us ensure the safety of your children!

Grade Configurations:

Beginning September 2024, the grade configurations at Mill Bay Nature School (MBNS) and George Bonner Elementary will be adjusted to better serve our learners and account for increases in enrollment in the catchment area. Over the next two school years, MBNS will transition to a catchment area school for K-2 learners. The MBNS community will welcome all Kindergarten students who were registered to start at George Bonner for the 2024-25 school year. Programming at

MBNS will align to the BC Curriculum and Early Learning Framework. Students will have the opportunity to foster their natural curiosity through a holistic approach to early education with a focus on the development of foundational skills and play-based learning. Our focus is to continue to create and foster safe, caring, stimulating environments in all classes at

both schools and to provide a thoughtful transition.

School	Grade Configuration 2024/25	Grade Configuration 2025/2026	Grade Configuration 2026/27
Mill Bay Nature School	K-7	K-2	K-2
George Bonner Elem.	1-7	2-7	3-7

We have a renewed Track around the field. The track was replaced over Spring Break. Thank you to our Operations Department for laying the track over Spring Break.

Ready, Set, Learn

This is an early learning initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to foster positive connections between families, the school system and community resource agencies. We are pleased to be able to offer in-person, play-based health and education fairs again this year as we have in the past. These events are designed for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers. We will be hosting events at the following locations this year:

Tuesday, April 02, 2024	Cheminus Elementary School	12:30-4:00
Tuesday, April 09, 2024	Palsson Elementary School	12:30-4:00
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	Discovery Elementary School	12:30-4:00
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	Heritage Hall @ Cowichan Community Center	12:30-4:00

Multicultural Recognitions:

April brings us many celebrations that occur around the world. I am hoping that this month students become aware of Easter celebrations. Easter is about celebrations of new beginnings.

Another celebration that takes place at this time of year is Baisaki. Baisaki is a Spring Harvest Festival – Beginning of a new year and sharing of food that is harvested at this time of the year.

PAC CORNER

PAC Meeting Monday, April 8th.

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.

There are various ways to get a hold of us:

- Emailing general inquiries to

georgebonnerpac@sd79.bc.ca

- Hot lunch inquiries to gbhotlunch@gmail.com

- Any popcorn, fundraising inquiries to

fundraisinggb@gmail.com

Spirit Wear is available! We have your favorite hoodies and Tees available! Shop online at <http://www.georgebonnerelementary.com/>

Our final Bake Sale of the year was Wednesday, April 3rd after school! We appreciate all your support this year with our bake Sales! Thank you for all your support!

Fun Fair – Is coming June 14th, but we can't do it without volunteers!

We will also need cupcake donations and cake donations on Fun Fair Day! More information to come from the PAC.

DQ bucks! Sold in \$5 increments, they helped us finish the swings...that means \$5000 was raised through these DQ Bucks that went towards the new swing set. The new swing set will be installed in June. Thank you to the Duncan Dairy Queen owners for helping George Bonner raise these funds! Thank You for supporting our School PAC!

PAC Information:

George Bonner JUMBLE SALE! April 27th, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the school!

We want your donations! Good used condition household wares, clothing, garden supplies, tools, and more! Sorry, no Electronics. DONATIONS can be dropped off at the school, there are boxes in the front lobby. Pick up available; message georgebonnerpac@sd79.bc.ca to coordinate. Rent a table for \$25 to sell your own garage sale or small business wares and keep all the profits! A limited number of tables are available!

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/>



Homestays Needed

The Cowichan Valley School District is seeking families to host international students from around the world for three-month, five-month and full school year programs.

Why host?

- o Create lifelong relationships for yourself and your children
- o Experience another culture
- o Receive a monthly honorarium

What do we ask you to provide?

- o Be willing to provide emotional and academic support
- o Be open to new cultural experiences and willing to share your own
- o Include your student into your family life and share activities together
- o Have transportation and the ability to pick up/drop off students at sports practices/games, extra-curricular activities, and school-organized field trips.
- o Have the ability to pick up and drop off your student at the airport at the time of arrival/departure.
- o A private bedroom with a desk, dresser, closet, and window.
- o Healthy meals and snacks

If you would like to join our program, please contact Brenda Langlois, Homestay Manager, at blanglois@sd79.bc.ca