



George Bonner News

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Principal's Message

February began a continuation with kindergarten registrations in full swing. It is a Leap Year, when we have the 29th as part of our month- this occurs every 4 years. February brings us - Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Family Day, Black History month, Pink Shirt Day (kindness), and National flag day. Before we know it, March and Spring Break will be here! We welcome our Pre-Service Teachers from VIU and UVIC who will complete their spring practicums with some of our teachers and also will be supporting our learners. We end February by celebrating 100 days of school and showing Kindness in support of anti-bullying – wear Pink campaign on February 28th.

Keep healthy and well! ❤️



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
11:20-12:08	Lunch (play time)
12:10-12:18	Lunch (eating time)
2:18 p.m.	Dismissal

Supervision ends at 2:35 pm



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



Fruit & Veggie Program

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

Wear Pink for Friendship & Kindness

Say NO to Bullying!

On Wednesday, February 28th, we will take part in Anti-bullying Day and take a standby Being Kind and respecting diversity. Bullying is a major problem that occurs in schools, homes, and on-line. We, at Bonner have been helping to raise awareness of these issues and **will continue** to provide tools needed to stand up against bullies and step in when we see it happening. The students at Bonner use their WITS (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help) when kids are mean or rude to one another.

On February 28th, 2024, we encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that you do not tolerate bullying and unkind behaviour.



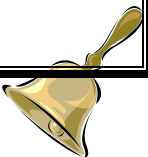
Please have a conversation with your child about "Be Kind" let's not give power to the bullies of this world.

If you would like to learn more about cyberbullying check the [Pink Shirt Day website](#), and on the [MediaSmarts website](#). These are great sites to get good information to talk with your child(ren).

Inclement Weather:

Power Outages

When we have a power outage, school is still in session, unless the 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.



Kindergarten Registration continues until September 2024 for the 2024-25 school year.



Kindergarten registrations will be accepted from families that live within our school catchment area and

from those with siblings presently attending with out-of-area approval (the same as previous years).

A reminder that preference for registrations will be given to those children who reside in the school catchment.

Please bring two proofs of residency (such as a driver's license and BC Hydro bill/utility bill) and a copy of your child's birth certificate and BC services card. Should you have further questions, please call the school.

Personal Electronic Devices (cell phones)

Please note that during the school day (once on school property), 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.

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 follow 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.
- Please do not park close to the entry gates as it is difficult for busses to get by.

Thank you for helping us ensure the safety of your children!

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.

Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities - INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce that in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare, Safer Schools has opened up four more dates for family sessions that mirror the sessions we are doing with students in gr 5-8 and 9-12. Dates, times, and information to register can be found in the link below.

<https://saferschoolstogether.com/resources/parent-resources/>

Substance Use Information

The Ministry of Education and Child Care, in partnership with adolescent Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Hayley Watson, will be hosting free virtual sessions on youth substance use for parents/guardians, caregivers and caring adults.

Dr. Watson will provide valuable insights, practical tips, and resources to equip participants with the tools needed to guide their children and youth toward making positive choices when it comes to substance use.

Key Takeaways for Participants:

- Learn why children/teenagers are drawn to substances.
- Understand what causes and maintains substance use disorder and needs.
- Increase your child's ability to make positive choices about substances.
- Acquire practical conversation tools for discussing substances in the home.

Participants must register in advance due to limited capacity. Session dates are:

- **February 20, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST - [Click here to Register](#)**
- **February 22, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST - [Click here to Register](#)**
- **February 28, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST - [Click here to Register](#)**

Any questions, please email the Mental Health and Substance Use Branch at educ.mentalhealth@gov.bc.ca.

I'm Late, Late, Late... for a Very Important Date!



Many students are arriving late for school everyday. Children who are late miss out on important organizational time and instruction.

- A student entering class late disrupts the focus of other children in the class
- school begins at **8:30 am**

Please support your child by arriving on time.

PAC CORNER

PAC Meeting Monday, February 26th.

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 gbmondaysmuffins@gmail.com.

There are various ways to get a hold of us:

- Emailing general inquiries to

georgebonnerpac@sd79.bc.ca

- Hot lunch inquiries to gbehotlunch@gmail.com

- Any popcorn, fundraising inquiries to

fundraisinggbe@gmail.com

Purdy's Chocolate - another fundraiser for the grade 7s and their year-end celebrations. The link is...

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1813001-115697>

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.

Jump Rope for Heart

Our School is celebrating Heart Health.

Don't forget we have our upcoming

Jump rope for Heart Day in February. We are showing our heart some love by staying active and eating healthy. Each year the Heart & Stroke Foundation contributes millions of dollars to fund research in B.C. to improve the lives of children and provide important health information to families. Your child will be fundraising to help families like yours live longer, healthier lives. For more information and to register,

for online fundraising, please go to go to

www.jumpropeforheart.ca and click "Register". The school page link is

<https://jumpropeforheart.crowdfunder.ca/44554> There is more information coming with your child(ren) this week.



Multicultural Recognitions:

February brings us many celebrations that occur around the world. We are so fortunate to learn from one another about these different celebrations:

Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year)– February

10th - according to the Traditional Chinese calendar, it begins on the first new moon of the year and ends on the full moon. It is a time of gathering for family and friends. Each new year is named after an animal, this year is the year of the Dragon. During the Chinese New Year, as part of the decorations, red is considered the colour of good luck, people post up red papers with lucky sayings i.e.. "Enter and Leave in Peace".

Black History Month

We will learn about the contributions that Black Canadians have made in their communities. To celebrate their stories, their courage and hope - and to learn about their accomplishments that are helping and that have helped to build and shape Canada.

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

Inclusive Education Month - INFORMATION

The purposes of National Inclusive Education Month are:

- To highlight inclusive education –

- To define what it is and how the development of inclusive schools and inclusive school practices help provide quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students with an intellectual disability.

-To provide educators, students, and parents an opportunity to share ideas on strategies to enhance inclusion and successful school experiences for every child.

-To acknowledge and recognize the commitment and effort of teachers, administrators, students, and families who contribute to successful inclusion of students in schools and classrooms throughout Canada.

Quick Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkMIT1XjDCw>

Sports Update

Volleyball for grade 6 & 7 students – Mr. Burgess, Ms. Tibbel, and Ms. Sheen

Wrestling for grade 4 & 5 students - Ms. Archer and Ms. Cadorette – Tournament

Each sport has permission forms that will need to be signed for students to attend the tournaments and mini games.



Chess club - Mr. Boan-Mitchel

Running TC 10K – Ms. Baxendale & Ms. Archer
George Bonner Rock Band – Mr. D. McDonald

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

Mucky, Wet Clothes

A reminder to please send an extra set of clothing in your child's backpack. Fields are wet and mucky this time of year and students often come in from playtime needing dry clothes.



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(s) to school dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. A reminder to please label all clothing.

Some Sites to Bookmark:

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/>

Thank you...

Thank you to everyone who donated food items for our food drive, driving for fieldtrips and sports activities. We could not do this without you!



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

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

Parents for Inclusive Education (PIE) a place to connect, educate and advocate on supports for diverse learners. For more information contact cowichanvalleydpac@gmail.com

Cowichan Junior Field Hockey

Registration is now open until February 15, 2024, for the upcoming season (April 1 – June 8). [Website](#) [Poster](#)

