



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 grade one students stretching their energy to stay alert 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 is here on Wednesday, October 23rd to do photo re-takes.



VIU Pre-Service Teachers

We have VIU Pre-Service Teachers this year from beginning pre-service teachers to their last practicum teachers. This means that the Pre-Service Teachers work in partners with our Bonner Teachers (Mrs. Taylor, Ms. Dunlop, Mrs. Mallawaratchi, Ms. Cadorette, Mrs. Frueh, and Ms. Ludwig) 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 Rebecca or Dawn – secretaries, in the office know as soon as possible if your child has any medical issues.

Norman Foote - Cowichan Performing Arts Centre - October 16th @ 6:30

Special Opportunity for our students to showcase their musical talents. Our school has been invited to join a collaborative choir performance featuring Norman Foote, a Juno award-winning singer and songwriter renowned for his contributions to children's music and education. We have some of our grade 2 to 7 students partaking in this wonderful opportunity in partnership with students from Discovery Elementary.

BC Shake Out Day

On October 17th, 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

In the last two weeks, we had Ms. Corrinne Chow visiting with all George Bonner classes to teach Metis culture lessons to students. Each class took 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 day, please let us know at the office and the classroom teacher. 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, March and June. 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'/they field hockey and boys'/they soccer teams have been practicing in preparation for their tournaments later this month. Cross Country practices are in full swing with a District Run next week. Thank you to Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Taylor, Ms. Cadorette, Ms. Joyce and Ms. Young for volunteering their time to coach these teams!



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 & Dawn Kowan
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.

October 31st/November 1st – 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.

FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment)

Please note that this year's Foundation Skills Assessment for grade 4 and 7 be administered between October 1st and November 8th. 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.

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!

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 and soft plastics. 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.

Terry Fox Run

The Bonner community raised almost \$900 in support of cancer research. Awesome work everyone and thanks to Mr. Burgess, and teachers for organizing!



Tour de Rock

The Bonner community raised over \$1700 for Tour de Rock. Some of our classes went to Frances Kelsey School to see the Tour de Rock ride through. We had Mr. Burgess and Mrs. Sorenson who shaved their heads for the cause. Thank you to everyone for raising such a great amount of money for cancer research and supporting children who live with cancer.

Garden House Charity Book Sale - Saturday, October 26 & Sunday, October 27th

The Garden House Foundation fund charity book sale will be held at Bonner Elementary on Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, October 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twenty thousand high quality used books will greet you at the sale in the multipurpose room. Rock bottom prices remain, with children's books priced at 50 cents and most other books going for \$2 and \$3. Exceptions include sets and coffee table books which will be marked at \$5. Other popular items are jigsaw puzzles, CDs, DVDs and silent auction books.

Bonner student volunteers will once again lend a hand with sale preparation. Their assistance helps make possible the annual Garden House grants to Cowichan Women Against Violence and the Duncan and District S.P.C.A., organizations that support Cowichan Valley families in crisis and animals in need.

Please note that book donations are no longer being collected for this year's sale. Please do not bring books to the school beforehand or on the sale day. Please visit the website in January for updated donation guidelines. For more information, please visit www.gardenhousefoundation.wordpress.com or call (250) 743-4627.

We hope to see you at the sale. Many thanks for everyone's support!

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

PAC CORNER

PAC Meeting Monday, October 22nd @ 6:30 pm in the Library.

Check the PAC Facebook page and George Bonner Facebook page 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.



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



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

- HON. MURRAY SINCLAIR



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: **Hourly wage \$25.00**

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

If interested, please email your resume to: Jan 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 #54 available at www.sd79.bc.ca

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