



George Bonner News

georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca – Rebecca Moreland & georgebonnersecretary2@sd79.bc.ca – Dawn Kowan
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.**

ANY ALLERGIES, MEDICAL ISSUES

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

Ministry Student Learning Survey

Families of grade 4 & 7 students will have received an email from the school asking them to participate in the Student Learning Survey.

School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) is participating in the 2025 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. The link is... www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm

Instructions on how to complete the survey:

- click the box Parents icon
- select the school district
- select school name where your child attends school
- click "Logon"

The survey closes May 2nd. I encourage you to complete the email so that we have up to date information on how you feel your child(ren) is doing in programs and activities offered at George Bonner. Please take the time to complete the survey. Thank you.

Spring KM Challenge

Dust those runners off! Our annual Spring KM Challenge has begun. We look forward to seeing students running laps around the school field and earning those charms. Cheers from Mrs. Frueh & Mrs. Young.

Hul q'umin word of the month

The Season of Spring!



The spring showers are here, which means migration for birds. The geese flying in a V formation tells us that the weather is getting warmer.

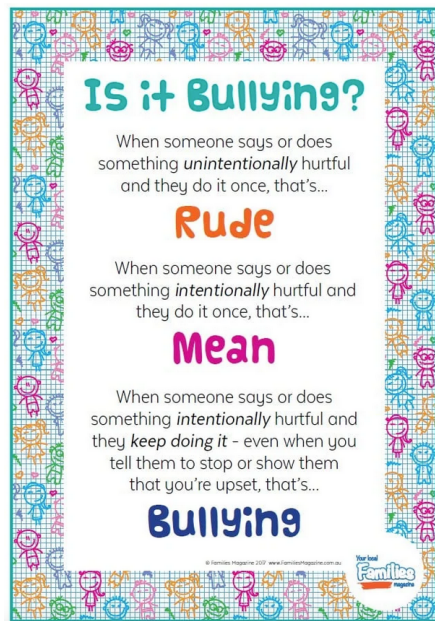
Sports Update

Chess club - Mr. Boan-Mitchel
Girls Soccer Gr. 4-7 – Ms. Cadorette & Mrs. Taylor
Rugby Gr. 6-7 – Mr. Burgess
Badminton – Mr. Jones & Ms. Young
KM Challenge – all participating classes; Organized by Ms. Frueh and Ms. Young.

Thank you to all staff for volunteering to run lunch time 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.



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/earthdayathom/e/>

Hwial'asmut tu tumuhw Take Care of the Earth

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 14th 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



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: Reminder

In September 2024, the grade configurations at Mill Bay Nature School (MBNS) and George Bonner Elementary were 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. All Grade 1 and Kindergarten students will be at the Mill Bay site as of September 2025.

The Mill Bay site is aligned to the BC Curriculum and Early Learning Framework.

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

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 Vaisaki. It's 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 28th

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 gbehotlunch@gmail.com
- Any popcorn, fundraising inquiries to fundraisinggbe@gmail.com

Our final Bake Sale of the year was Wednesday, April 16th after school! We appreciate all your support this year with our bake Sales! Thank you for all your support!

Fun Fair – Is coming May 30th 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.

Salmon

Many classes are raising salmon. They are at the "Fry" stage and are growing quickly. Classes will be taking them to the local creeks and rivers to release the salmon.

George Bonner Website

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

George Bonner Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057258349675>

Transportation

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


Cowichan Valley School District

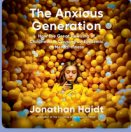
<http://www.sd79.bc.ca>

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


Book Talk

Highlights from the book:

Did you know? 



We found that this book is getting everyone's attention. It is a craze with Parents, caregivers and educators! If you would like to read the book, I have copies in my office, or just follow us along weekly for tidbits from the book.



Go Bonner Bears!

Did you know? 



Children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults. Look for more information weekly on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057258349675> as we explore the impacts of the phone based childhood.



Go Bonner Bears!

Did you know? 



Between 2010 and 2015, the social lives of teens and adolescents moved from in-person connections to smartphones with continuous access to social media and online games.



Go Bonner Bears!

Homestays Needed

Our high school aged international students are eager to experience life in

Canada. As a host, you'll

provide a safe, supportive, and caring environment to help them thrive. Families of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply—and hosts receive support and compensation to ensure a successful experience for everyone involved!

We are actively recruiting host families for the upcoming fall semester (September 2025)! Now is the perfect time to apply and prepare to welcome a student into your home.

Join us in creating unforgettable memories and making a difference in a student's life.

Apply today and make a difference! For more information, contact blanglois@sd79.bc.ca or apply here: <https://www.studyincowichan.com/homestay-program/>

BE MY HOME
AWAY FROM HOME
Previous attachment



HOMESTAYS NEEDED FOR HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
If you are an active family interested in hosting an international student from Europe and around the world contact us!
Brenda 250-510-1436 / blanglois@sd79.bc.ca