



George Bonner News

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

Principal's Message

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 end February by celebrating 100 days of school and showing Kindness in support of anti-bullying – wear Pink campaign on February 26th.

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.

Snow and Ice Covered Areas

As the nights get colder there may be areas of the parking lot, sidewalks, and playground that freeze at night making them slippery in the mornings. A reminder to please be careful during drop-off/pick up times and watch out for icy and slippery areas. Areas that receive little or no sun during the day are especially slippery. Mrs. Cheema and Ms. Morgan will also apply ice melt to problem areas on cold, icy mornings. However, if you encounter a slippery spot, please let the office know immediately so the area can be attended to. Thank you and please watch your step on cold mornings!



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

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 p.m.	



Wear Pink for Friendship & Kindness

Say NO to Bullying!

On Wednesday, February 26th, we will take part in Anti-bullying Day and take a stand, by 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 (**W**alk away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out, **S**eek help) when kids are mean or rude to one another.

On February 26th, 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](https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/), and on the [MediaSmarts website](https://www.media-smarts.ca/). These are great sites to get good information to talk with your child(ren).

Inclement Weather

If the Superintendent officially closes schools for the day. Any notice of official closings due to weather will be posted to the Cowichan Valley School District Facebook and Instagram accounts. SUN FM (89.7 FM), CBC Radio (90.5 FM), CFAX (1070 AM), The Zone (91.3 FM), The Q! (100.3 FM), CTV Vancouver Island, CHEK News, and Global BC will all be informed.

The School District website will also be updated with a banner informing of the closure <https://sd79.bc.ca/> Facebook page:

(<https://www.facebook.com/CowichanSchools/>), and Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/cowichanschools>)

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.

Kindergarten Registration continues until September 2025 for the 2025-26 school year.



Kindergarten registrations will be accepted from families that live within the Mill Bay Elementary

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

A reminder that reference 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. **Kindergarten Registrations occur at Mill Bay Elementary School.**

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

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.

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 a.m.**

Please support your child by arriving on time.

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.



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:

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, Mr. Jones, Ms. Gurski and Ms. Tibbel.



Wrestling for grade 4 & 5 students - Ms. Cadorette
Chess club - Mr. Boan-Mitchel
Running TC 10K – Ms. Baxendale & Mrs. Frueh
Floor Hockey – Mr. McDonald

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

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

Bonner Website

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

Transportation

<https://sd79.bc.ca/services/transportation/>

Cowichan Valley School District

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

PAC CORNER

PAC Meeting Monday, February 24th.

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

All parents are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

The 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 can contact 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

**BE MY
HOME
AWAY FROM
HOME**



**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

The Cowichan Valley School District's International Student Program has students from Europe and around the world and would like to encourage families to consider opening their home to welcome our new students to Cowichan. We have both short and long-term hosting opportunities.

Hosting an international student is an exciting, rewarding, and enriching experience that will allow Cowichan Valley families to learn about another culture and share what they know about Canada.

More information:

<http://www.studyincowichan.com/homestay-program/>

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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