



# George Bonner News

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

## Principal's Message

*Happy New Year! It's a new year, and we have had quite a nice start to our school routines. January brings us all kinds of sports (skating, volleyball, chess, wrestling, and floor hockey) for students to take part in. We wish you all the very best for 2025 - From Mrs. Updesh Cheema and The George Bonner Staff.*

## 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 a.m.

8:30 a.m.	Classes begin
11:15-12:08	Lunch (play time)
12:10-12:18	Lunch (eating time)
2:18 p.m.	Dismissal

Supervision ends at 2:35 p.m.



## 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) come(s) to school dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. A reminder to please label all clothing as our Lost and Found area is currently overflowing with unlabeled items. **Lost and Found items are located in the Lower Atrium.**



Kindergarten Registration January 22<sup>nd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>

Register at Mill Bay Elementary

Eligible students for Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Registration is available on line or a registration package can be picked up at Mill Bay school.

It is very important that you register your child in the registration week, as the totals will be sent to the School Board Office to help determine the school's staffing for the next school year.

**You will need to supply the school with the following items when you register:**

- your child's birth certificate, or Canadian Passport
- 2 x proof of your home address (driver's license, utility bill with your name on it)

If you know of other families who have Kindergarten aged children, please remind them to register.

## SOGI Inclusion Family Information night hosted by ARC Foundation.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., ARC Foundation is hosting an online information night for families and students in Cowichan Valley Schools. The session will cover how resources can help schools recognize the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity while ensuring safety and respect for all. [SD 79 Family Info Night Poster](#)

## 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!



## Inclement Weather:

### 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 :)*



If the Superintendent needs to officially close one or more schools for the day due to inclement weather, these closures will be reported on The Q! (100.d FM), The Zone (91.3 FM), JUICE FM (89.7), CBC FM (90.5), CFAX FM (1070) and CTV VI News by 6:00 am.

Facebook page

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

will occur as soon as possible. Typically, schools are only closed when it is unsafe for school buses to travel on the roads, or if there has been an extended power failure causing the schools to become too cold. The 2025 winter weather information for parents is now posted on the school district website.

<https://sd79.bc.ca/services/transportation/winter-weather-information/>

## 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.

## 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.

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.

**Home:** Have a conversation with your child about responsible usage of social media. It is important that children understand that virtually anybody can see what is posted on the internet and there are often ways for people to get around privacy settings. Although your child's use of social media might be innocent and appropriate, they are still open to hurtful comments from anyone. This is not to say that access to these programs should be denied, but rather that there needs to be conversations and instruction about safe and appropriate usage.

Possible ideas for guiding conversation or practice of use of social media might include insisting that your child includes you as a follower or “friend” so that you are able to see their posts, having them share their login information with you, and going through the privacy settings with your child to ensure that only people they know are able to interact with them online.

## Parking Lot



Please do not block the parking lot by stopping for too long as your child(ren) get(s) out or into the vehicle. Please keep traffic moving through the parking lot.

Thank you for driving slowly through the parking lot. Reminder that the speed limit in front of the school is 30km/h from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. 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 all children safe!

## White Hatter Parent Presentation

At George Bonner - Coming January 29<sup>th</sup>  
7-9 p.m.: Come and learn about Internet Safety and  
Digital Literacy: helping your kids be safe online!  
With Brandon Laur.



**Brandon Laur, M.G.C., M.A.**

CEO & Instructor

## 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 as well as the flow of the class
- The beginning of school is **8:30 am**.

**Please support your child at school by  
arriving on time.**

## 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**

## 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.



## Thank you...

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



## Sports Update

Volleyball for grade 6 & 7 students  
Wrestling for grade 4 & 5 students  
Hockeyball for grade 4 & 5 students



Tournaments for Volleyball and Wrestling will be taking place in February/March and more information will be coming out soon.

Thank you to all staff who volunteer to coach and supervise lunch time games.

Ms. Sorenson offers once a week Mindful Movement for all age groups. Mr. Boan-Mitchell offers Chess club.

Many more sports opportunities coming up.

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

### Bonner Website

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

### Transportation

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

### Cowichan Valley School District

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

## Multicultural Recognitions:

This time of year, there are many celebrations that occur around the world. We are so fortunate to learn from one another about these wonderful celebrations:

**Lohri – January 13<sup>th</sup>** – a celebration that is celebrated in India and people of Punjabi Heritage. Lohri brings together family, relatives, and friends, like any other festival. People gather and exchange sweets. It is a winter harvest festival and especially important for farmers and for babies and newly-weds celebrating their first Lohri.

**Lunar New Year – January 29<sup>th</sup>** - according to the Traditional Chinese calendar, it begins on the first new moon of the year and ends on the full moon. 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 saying i.e. "Enter and Leave in Peace". It is a time of gathering for family and friends.

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



**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.

Our host families:

- are willing to provide emotional, social, and academic support
- are open to new cultural experiences
- integrate their student into their family life and share activities together
- have transportation and the ability to pick up their student occasionally
- provide healthy meals and snacks
- are compensated \$1000/month when hosting a student

**More information:**

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

**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.



Make online payments with  
**SchoolCashOnline**

- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Sports Events
- ✓ Activity Fees

Register at <https://sd79.schoolcashonline.com>



**PAC CORNER**

**PAC Meeting Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

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](mailto:gbmondaymuffins@gmail.com).

There are various ways to get a hold of us:

- Emailing general inquiries to [georgebonnerpac@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:georgebonnerpac@sd79.bc.ca)
- Hot lunch inquiries to [gbehotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:gbehotlunch@gmail.com)
- Any popcorn, fundraising inquiries to [fundraisinggbe@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisinggbe@gmail.com)



**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:

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

Hourly wage: \$26.50

If interested please email your resume to: Jen Christenson, Staffing Officer and Systems Analyst, [jchristenson@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:jchristenson@sd79.bc.ca) or drop off at the School Board Office, 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan. Full Job Description #34 available at [www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)