



George Bonner News

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

Principal's Message

February has been one busy month with; Volleyball, Valentine's Day, Pink Shirt Day, and Wrestling. "March comes in like a lion" and hopefully April will come in calm. Enjoy your Spring Break and we will see everyone back Monday, March 31st. Enjoy your Break! ❤️



School Goals

Our Goals Focus on:

- Identifying and regulating behaviour
- Increase academic performance (Literacy, Numeracy)
- Embedding Indigenous Ways of Knowing throughout the school day

School Schedule

Supervision begins at 8:15 a.m.

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.



Sports Update

Floor Hockey for grade 4 - 7 students – Mr. McD
Mindful Movement for all age groups - Ms. Sorenson
Chess club - Mr. Boan-Mitchel
Planet Protectors Clug – Ms. Miller
Thank you to all staff for volunteering to run lunch time clubs and sports.

Spring Break

March 17th through to March 28th. Have a great spring break!

For Families - complete 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. If you have a child attending George Bonner Elementary who is in Grade 4 or 7 you will receive an e-mail this week with instructions on how to complete the survey.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school.

The e-survey site will be open **until** May 2nd, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

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

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 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 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.
- 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 our wonderful 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:

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

March

Ramadan – is a special and holy month for Muslims all over the world. It is a time of fasting, prayer and reflection. Fasting occurs during the daylight hours, meaning they do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. Ramadan is about becoming a better person by praying, doing good deeds and helping others. For kids, Ramadan is an exciting time filled with family traditions, special meals and celebrations. There is a 30-day fasting that began on March 1st– this goes on for 30 days until the next moon.

Mucky, Wet Clothes

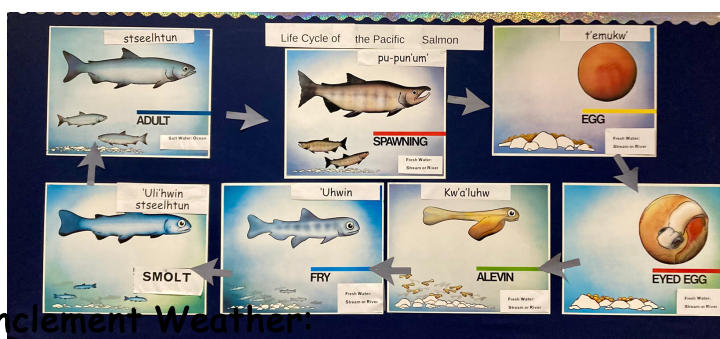
A reminder to please send an extra set of clothing in your child's backpack. Fields are wet and mucky this time of year and students often come in from playtime needing dry clothes.

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 as our Lost & Found continues to grow.



Salmon

We have many classes with salmon and making sure they are doing well. They are at the "Fry" stage and are growing quickly. Soon they will be ready to be released into the Local Rivers.



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.



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

Transportation

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

Cowichan Valley School District

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

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/>

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



Lice information

A reminder to have your children not share toques, hats or other clothing items with hoods as we are just getting over some lice cases. A way to treat Lice is to... at the first sign of live lice do a lice treatment; and it is important to do routine head checks, using the wet comb method.

Read the HealthLink BC File on Head Lice

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/head-lice>

READ - A- THON

Read-a-Thon prizes:

Draw of 10 Students who raised over \$50: received \$15 gift certificate to Chapters/Indigo: Hailey Jadan, Jaxon Giebel, Alyssa Hockin, Hu Emery, Carson Dunlop, Rowan Morgan, Abigail Stanley, Morgan Lasky, Killian Dunlop, and Alice Kozoriz.

Draw of 10 Students who read for 500 minutes or more: received \$10 Volume One gift certificates: Simon Christie, Emma Wellman, Elijah McConkey, Alexa Lansdowne, Nomi McMullin, Sebastian Smith, Kiran Narine, Scott Sears, Haley Allan, Paloma Grinstein-Steeg.

Four student who raised over \$75: Family pass to a local attraction or activity: Brooke Lansdowne, Jayce Claxton, Isla Prince, James Garvey.

Top Fundraising class receives a pizza party: Ms. Leva's class raised \$343.30

Top Reading class receives DQ Ice Cream Cake – Ms. Youngs's class read 15,176 minutes.

Top Reader receives \$25 Chapters/Indigo gift certificate: Hassan Charania.

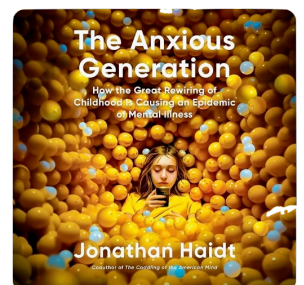
Top fundraiser receives \$25 Chapters/Indigo gift certificate: John Gimbel.

Congratulations to all our participants!! Continue with your love of reading!

Thank you to our PAC group for putting out such and amazing initiative.

Book Talk

The recently published book, "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt is a fantastic read. It is filled with important (and sometimes alarming) information about the impacts of social media and cell phones in the hands of young children, adolescents and teenagers. This is timely, given the Ministry of Education and Child Care's recent restrictions of cellphones in schools. I have a copy in my office if anyone would like to borrow it.





COWICHAN VOLLEY

SPRING VOLLEYBALL

****Monday Nights, March 31-June 2**
Co-ed, Skill Development & Game Play
 6:10-7:10pm: Grades 7-8
 7:15-8:15pm: Grade 5-6
 8:20-9:20pm: Grade 9-11
 Where: Si'em Lelum Gymnasium
 Cost: \$80/player

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 13

cowichanvolley@gmail.com

**if interested in Tuesday nights also, please indicate by emailing



NOW AVAILABLE

Make online payments with
SchoolCashOnline

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

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

KEY GROUP
 School Cash Simplified

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!

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
- Want to help with popcorn message - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1405471856150807>
- Fundraising inquiries to fundraisinggbe@gmail.com