



# George Bonner News

[georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca) – Rebecca Moreland & Dawn Kowan [georgebonnersecretary2@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:georgebonnersecretary2@sd79.bc.ca)

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

## Principal's Message

As the days grow longer and the school ground fills with the energy and color of spring, May brings with it a sense of renewal, reflection, and celebration. Just like the season around us, our school is blooming—with student growth, accomplishments, and moments that remind us of the warmth and spirit that define this incredible community.

During this beautiful season of change, I want to share something personal with you. Last week, I shared with staff that this will be my final year at George Bonner. I do so with a full heart and deep appreciation. Reflecting on the past three years, I am filled with a profound sense of thankfulness and joy.

Leading Bonner Elementary and sharing in the lives of such wonderful students has been both a privilege and a meaningful experience. Watching them grow, learn, and thrive has been both inspiring and humbling. I am especially thankful for the meaningful relationships I have been able to build with our students, staff, and families - relationships rooted in trust, collaboration, and care.

A true blessing during my time here has been the opportunity to make connections with the Malahat Nation. Learning from their rich history, traditions, and culture has been an incredibly valuable experience that has deepened my understanding and appreciation of the world around us. These lessons will remain a part of me as I move forward.

Throughout my time at Bonner, our shared commitment to prioritizing learning while nurturing the well-being of every child has been at the heart of all we've done. The moments we've experienced together - in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, and at countless school events are memories I will treasure for a lifetime.

As I step into the next chapter, I will carry the spirit of this community with me, always proud to have been part of something so special.

As I prepare to transition, I am excited to introduce Mrs. Jennifer Calverley as the new principal of George Bonner Elementary this coming September. With a strong background in education and a passion for fostering a supportive, inclusive environment.

I am confident that Mrs. Calverley will build on the foundation we've created and lead the school with care, vision, and dedication. I know you will warmly welcome her and work together to achieve great things.

Thank you all for the support and trust you've shown me. I'm excited for what lies ahead for Bonner under Mrs. Calverley's leadership.

## School Schedule

**Supervision begins at 8:15 a.m.**

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
<b>11:20-12:05</b>	<b>Lunch (play time)</b>
<b>12:05-12:18</b>	<b>Lunch (eating time)</b>
<b>2:18 p.m.</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

**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.**

## Parent Tea - June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

8-8:30 a.m. We are appreciating all the support that parents and guardians provide for their children. Please stop by the front of the school and let us treat you to a coffee.

## Entrepreneur Fair

Divisions 1, 2, and 3 will be hosting an Entrepreneur Fair on May 9th, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Looking for ideas for a gift for Mother's Day? Look no further! With dozens of amazing crafts, from slime to charm bracelets, the Grade 7s have put together a variety of products that will excite all shoppers. Please note that all items will be sold in increments of \$0.25, and bringing small bills, toonies, loonies, and quarters will be helpful for our students to ensure you get the correct change. Have questions? Please ask Mr. Burgess, Ms. Gurski, Mrs. Morgan, or Mr. Jones.

## Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Day

This week, we celebrate the heart of our school - our amazing teachers.

Teacher Appreciation Day is a chance to recognize the dedication, patience, and passion our educators bring into the classroom every single day. They do more than just teach - they inspire, support, and shape young minds into future leaders, thinkers, and kind-hearted individuals.

Whether it's staying after school to help a student, finding creative ways to make learning exciting, or simply offering a listening ear, our teachers go above and beyond in countless ways. Their impact reaches far beyond the classroom, and for that, we are truly thankful.

To all our teachers: we see you, we appreciate you, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Day!

## Sports Update

Girls' Jr. soccer teams have the District tournament coming up next week.

Students had a great Rugby season. At the District Rugby Jamboree our school rugby team represented Bonner exceptionally well. They played with determination, integrity, and heart. Congratulations to all rugby players! A special thank you to Mr. Burgess for supporting this year's team.

## Track and Field

On Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Bonner students in grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 will participate in the school Track and Field event at Chesterfield Track. Thank you to Staff for organizing this event.



## Jump Rope for Heart

Our School is celebrating Heart Health. Don't forget we have our upcoming Jump Rope for Heart Day on May 28th. For the month of May we are showing our heart some love by staying active and eating healthy. Each year the Heart & Stroke Foundation contributes millions of dollars to fund research in B.C. to improve the lives of children and provide important health information to families. Your child will be fundraising to help families like yours live longer, healthier lives. For more information and to register, for online fundraising, please go to [www.jumpropeforheart.ca](http://www.jumpropeforheart.ca) and click "Register" Then in the search bar search "George Bonner Elementary" if you would like to make a personalized fundraising platform for your child, we have a prize for the top fundraiser. Individual donations can also be made to our school fundraising platform. The school page link is <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/88999> Cash donations can be brought to classroom teachers. What can you do at home to focus on your health this month?

## 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](mailto:georgebonnerheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca)

## Spring KM Challenge

Students have been taking part in the annual Spring KM Challenge this April and May. Students have been running laps on last years' new school track and earning charms. Thank you to Mrs. Frueh & Ms. Young for organizing this activity.

## Multicultural Recognitions:

May brings us many celebrations that occur around the world. We are so fortunate to learn from one another about these different celebrations. In order to get to know one another is to celebrate or recognize different cultures within our community. I am hoping that this month students become aware of Asian Heritage.

## Personal Electronic Devices (cell phones)

Please note that during the school day (once the students are on school property), all electronic devices must be stored in backpacks or lockers and must not be used.

## Safety In and Around the 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.

As the warm days are upon us and more students may be riding their bikes, walking, or skateboarding to school, we ask that drivers to be more cognizant of the pedestrians in and around the vehicles.

Please do not block the entrance and exit ways or park your vehicle in the moving lane of the parking lot.

Thank you for helping us ensure the safety of your children!



### Thank you...

Thank you to everyone who has been driving to sports events – we could not have done it without you!

## PAC NEWS:

**Fun Fair** Is coming. May 30<sup>th</sup> 4-7 p.m.

### Website Links:

[George Bonner Website](#)

[Transportation & Bus Registration](#)

[Cowichan Valley School District - SD79 Website](#)

## ANY ALLERGIES, MEDICAL ISSUES

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

## Year End Fieldtrips

We are planning a couple of exciting year-end field trips. I've spoken with classes about school behavior and expectations. Please note: participation in these trips may depend on students demonstrating appropriate behavior at school. In some cases, a parent/guardian may be required to attend if a student is not meeting expectations during regular school hours.

## PAC CORNER

**PAC Meeting Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.  
Bonner Library.**

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)

## MAY IS TRANSPORTATION REGISTRATION MONTH

### REGISTRATION PROCESS:

Students **must retain their bus pass from the 24/25** school year as the Cowichan Valley School District will provide only **one** bus pass the **first** time a student is enrolled in the transportation service.

What is Changing:

Beginning in the 2025/2026 academic school year, bus passes will no longer be reissued annually. Instead, your student will be expected to keep their current pass from 2024/2025 academic year and reuse the same bus pass from year to year.

Lost or Damaged Passes:

The replacement fee for lost and altered passes is \$10.00. Payment can be made for replacement passes via e-transfer to [buspasspayments@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:buspasspayments@sd79.bc.ca) or by credit card at 250-748-1066 ext. 276 Replacement passes will be sent with your students afternoon driver.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we implement this new process.

1) Registration can be completed online beginning May 1- 31, 2024. Registration completed prior to May 1st will not be accepted for the 2025/2026 year.

2) Please follow the link  
<https://sd79.bc.ca/services/transportation/> (A student number is required please obtain from the school)  
3) ALL Kindergarten registrations and any new students to the district must be accompanied with an electronic photo, and Student ID number.  
Applications without a photo will not be processed.  
Please email photos to  
[transportationregistration@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:transportationregistration@sd79.bc.ca)

4) Once registered, Parents/Guardians will receive an email in mid-August indicating registration is complete and information for accessing routing and bus passes will be provided at that time.

**Summer hours will be Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, Monday – Friday 9am – 1:00pm**



Are you excited about the idea of welcoming a high school student from another part of the world into your home? Becoming a host family is a unique opportunity to share Canadian culture, form lifelong connections, and play a crucial role in a young person's educational journey in our community. 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. 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.

If you know another family in the community who might like to host an international student, our program is also offering a referral incentive of \$150 to people who successfully refer another family to host a student.

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

### **Thank you to Ty Craig of Cowichan Woodwork in Cobble Hill**

Div. 1 and 2 would like to give a huge THANK YOU! to Ty and Zach Craig for their very generous donation of wood. Over 40 students were able to use wood to create a unique design and create art thanks to the generosity of Ty and Zach. Thank you!

### **Thank you to Travis Berthiaume and Duncan Dairy Queen**

Mel Burgess and the entire grade 6/7 rugby team would like to extend a huge thank you to Travis Berthiaume for their continued support and generosity. All players were treated to a free ice cream treat following a fun-filled day of exciting rugby on Thursday, May 1st. Thank you Travis and Duncan Dairy Queen!

### **Bike to School Week: June 2-6**



Did you know that riding your bike to school can help improve your stamina while cutting down on harmful CO2 emissions?

Mr. Burgess is calling on all Grade 5, 6, and 7 students, as well as staff of George Bonner, to ride their bike to school from Monday June 2 to Friday June 6. Riding your bike can...

1. foster independence.
2. help promote a healthy lifestyle.
3. help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**All grade 5-7 students who ride 3 or more days that week will earn an ice cream treat** for their efforts! To qualify, students must:

1. Get a permission form signed by their parent/guardian
2. Attend a bicycle safety course with Mr. Burgess and pass a written road safety test.
3. Pass a "Riding Test" with Mr. Burgess that involves demonstrating knowledge of appropriate safety gear, safe riding techniques, how to safely cross a busy highway intersection, and more!

Please see Mr. Burgess for more details.

For SchoolCashOnline please register at  
<https://sd79.schoolcashionline.com>



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