



# George Bonner News

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## Principal's Message

*We have had quite the busy Fall, with Photos, Guests such as; Ms. Corinne Chow who shared the Metis Culture with the us; We had the BC Shake Up – Earthquake preparedness; Girls Field Hockey, Cross Country and Boys Soccer season ended well with a district tournament.*

*We have basketball that has begun for any student interested in grades 4-7.*

*We appreciate your diligence in keeping your child(ren) home when they are feeling ill. We all need to work together to prevent the spread of colds, flu, and viruses. If you ever have a question, please call us at the office and we will help you with your questions and concerns.*

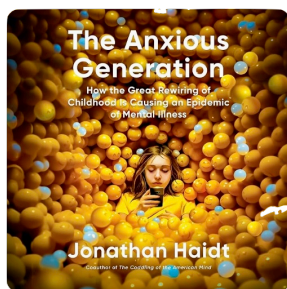
## Re-Take Picture Day

Please note Life Touch will be here on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to do re-takes.



## 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 adolescents and teenagers. This is timely, given the Ministry of Education and Child Care's recent restrictions of cellphones in schools.



## 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, Parents/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: )*



The 2024/25 winter weather information for parents is now posted on the school district website.

<https://sd79.bc.ca/district-news/inclement-weather-information/>

## Remembrance Ceremony

Remembrance Day Assembly will take place on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.



**Poppies** will be given to each child to wear on this day. Our message for students is to think about "Why is it that we wear a poppy?" If you would like to donate, you may send it in with your child.



## Playground

Playground and fields are wet and muddy at this time of year. We suggest that ALL students have a change of clothing in their backpack, so that they do not need to bother their families for clothing. Please ensure that your child has a pair of running shoes to wear in the gym.



## 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 conversation 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



Thank you for driving slowly through the parking lot. 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 our children safe!

## Winter Celebrations

Staff and students are busy preparing for the winter concert. There will be an afternoon performance and an evening performance. Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Gr. 1-3 “A Berry Merry Holiday” & Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, Gr.4-7 performance.



## Late Student Attendance

When children arrive late;

- They miss out on morning routines for the classroom and school.
- The teacher and other students in the classroom are interrupted.
- There may be sad feelings of being left out or not knowing what is going on in the classroom.
- It often takes the child a while to fit back into the routine of the morning.
- The beginning of school is **8:30 a.m.**

**Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m.**

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
<b>11:20-12:05</b>	<b>Lunch (play time)</b>
<b>12:10-12:18</b>	<b>Lunch (eating time)</b>
<b>2:18 p.m.</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

**Supervision ends at 2:35 p.m.**



## 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.

## Sports

Basketball season is underway! All students, grades 4-7 are welcome to join. The focus is on fun and skill development. Athletes will need proper inside athletic shoes and clothing to play.

Practices run from Tuesday - Gr. 4/5 girls and Gr. 6/7 boys; Wednesday- Gr. 6/7 girls and Gr. 4/5 boys; Thursday – Gr. 6/7 boys; Fridays – all players basketball shooting practice. Please see Mr. Burgess for any questions. District Tournament will be in the first week of December at Bonner.

**HAS YOUR ADDRESS, HOME PHONE, CELL PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS CHANGED?**

Please call the office and let us know.

Thank you.



**Weekly food hampers** for students & their families - Contact school principal for more information  
[ucheema@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:ucheema@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.



## "Mo"vember

It's Movember once again and staff at Bonner are ready to start growing their mustaches!

A growing number of men – around 10.8M globally – are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among young men. Across the world, too many men die every day from taking their own lives. Since 2003, Movember has funded more than 1,250 men's health projects around the world, challenging the status quo, shaking up men's health research and transforming the way health services reach and support men.

At Bonner, we will be raising funds and having fun by selling fake mustaches to all students and staff.

**Our grade 7 students will help sell mustaches to all students and staff for \$1 each, every Friday of November. \$1 for natural colours (black, brown, white, or blonde) and \$2 for other mustaches! Every cent will go to the "Mo"vember foundation to support initiatives around men's health.**

This year we are aiming to raise \$1000.

Thank you for your support! See Mr. Burgess if you have any questions regarding this fund and spirit-raising initiative.

## Multicultural Recognitions:

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>/Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights. Is celebrated by families whose heritage stems back to India. People gift each other with sweets and treats.

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

## Websites that are very useful for current information:

- "Like" the George Bonner Elementary School's Facebook page to receive updates and information about the happenings at school.
- Bonner website  
<http://georgebonner.sd79.bc.ca>
- Bonner Facebook page
- Transportation, visit  
<https://sd79.bc.ca/services/transportation/>
- Cowichan Valley School District  
<http://www.sd79.bc.ca>

## Snow and Ice

During the winter months, when it snows overnight or when conditions are very cold and icy, the school district maintenance department dispatches staff to help clear ice and snow. However, please note that staff are often not able to clear all sites before school starts in the morning. A reminder to please be careful during morning drop-off and watch out for icy and slippery areas. Areas that receive little or no sun during the day are especially slippery. If you notice an area that is especially slippery, please contact the office so it can be dealt with as soon as possible.

## PAC CORNER

### PAC Meeting Monday, November 18<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,

[gbmondaymuffins@gmail.com](mailto:gbmondaymuffins@gmail.com).



## Lost and Found at Transportation

Student belongings such as gym strip, lunch bags, hats, mitts, iPods, cell phones, etc., etc., etc. are left on busses daily. Our bus drivers clean and sweep their buses after each run and may keep items on the bus for a day or two in hopes that the owner claims it. However, students often do not realize that they have lost or misplaced an item and not all items are claimed.

All belongings are brought into the Duncan bus garage and held for 2 months, after 2 months the items are donated.

If you have lost something, please come to the Transportation office and have a look through the collection. We are located at 2557 Beverly St, Duncan, our office hours are 8:30 am until 4:30 pm.

## Bonner Library News

Many parents have contacted me about donations to the school library over the course of the year, and I want to inform the Bonner School community that there is another option to donate. Bucknucks Books has an account for George Bonner Elementary School at their Cobble Hill location, in the Valleyview Mall. If you have any books that you do not want in your home anymore, please consider bringing them to Bucknucks, and request the credit to be given to Bonner.

Thank you, John Boan-Mitchell



Stay Healthy and Safe!



"Education is the key to reconciliation - education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it."

- HON. MURRAY SINCLAIR

