



# George Bonner Elementary School

*We are grateful to be learning together on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish People.*

## Welcome Back to George Bonner Elementary!

We are excited to begin another wonderful year of learning and growing together at George Bonner Elementary School! Last week, students and staff enjoyed reconnecting and welcoming new families to the George Bonner learning community. As we settle into both familiar and new routines, we're focused on building a strong sense of community and engaging in meaningful learning experiences.

This year, we're excited to introduce a refreshed Code of Conduct and a renewed focus on the values that shape our identity as George Bonner Bears. Our updated Code of Conduct encourages all students to Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe — guiding principles for a positive and inclusive school environment.

We're also proud to launch our new B.E.A.R. acronym, which highlights the values we aim to live by every day: Believe in yourself, Engage in learning, Achieve your goals, and Respect everyone. Together, these values help us build a strong, caring community where every student can thrive.

As we begin the 2025–2026 school year, we want to remind families that your feedback and input are always welcome. If you have any questions, suggestions, or thoughts to share, please don't hesitate to call or visit the school office.

## Welcome Back Family BBQ

On Monday, September 28th, families are invited to join the George Bonner staff for a BBQ on the back field. It's a great opportunity to connect, enjoy some delicious food, and celebrate the start of a new school year together. We look forward to seeing you there!

1

### Weekly Reminders

will be sent home to families by e-mail providing a 2-week glimpse of the upcoming happenings at the school.

2

### Monthly E-Newsletters

will be shared on the first Friday of the month by e-mail. Paper copies will be available from the office.

3

### Social Media

will be used to keep the school community informed about school activities and events. 'Like' us on Facebook.



Thank you for respecting the speed limit of 30km along Cobble Hill Road.



Please join us for our Welcome Back Family BBQ:  
Sept. 29th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.



All parents and guardians are invited to the PAC Meeting on Monday, Sept. 29th @ 6:00 pm.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2025

### 2025/2026 Classes

Students have now moved into temporary classes, and there may be changes to placements throughout the month of September. We are actively reviewing enrolment and thoughtfully planning for long-term class configurations to best support all learners.

We will continue to keep families informed as we move through this transition period and truly appreciate your patience and understanding during the start-up process. We also want to thank families for the feedback, emails, and placement requests shared with us. Please know that while we carefully consider all input, we are not able to accommodate every request due to a variety of factors. Rest assured, every student's placement is reviewed with care and intention.

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: September 30, 2025

September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a time to reflect on the history and lasting impacts of residential schools in Canada. At George Bonner Elementary, we will be dedicating time during the week leading up to the 30th to learn about this important history and honouring the strength and resilience of survivors.

To show our support and raise awareness, students and staff are encouraged to wear orange throughout the week. We encourage families to join us in recognizing this day and engaging in conversations that support truth, reconciliation, and healing.

### George Bonner's Refreshed Code of Conduct

We're excited to share our updated Code of Conduct: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. These guiding principles help create a positive, inclusive, and safe learning environment for all. At school, students learn, practice, and model these values every day.

This week, a Code of Conduct pamphlet will be sent home with your child. It includes more details about the expectations and how we support students in following them. Please take a moment to review the pamphlet together, sign it, and return it to the school.



### Visitors Reminder: Check-in at the Office

At George Bonner Elementary, we value strong connections with families and welcome visitors to our school. However, we kindly remind everyone to check in at the front office upon arrival and to limit your visit to the front entrance unless otherwise invited. Families are also asked to wait outside or in the front entrance when dropping off or picking up children. This helps minimize disruptions to learning—especially in shared spaces like the atrium—and supports the safety and well-being of all students and staff. Thank you for helping us maintain a secure and focused learning space for everyone.

### UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Sept. 17 & Sept. 19  
Bike Program

Monday, Sept. 22nd  
Non-Instructional  
Day (No school for  
students)

Tuesday, Sept. 23  
Photo Day

Thursday, Sept. 25th  
Terry Fox Run

Sept. 22nd-29th  
Truth and  
Reconciliation Week

Monday, Sept. 29  
Welcome Back BBQ  
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Monday, Sept. 29th  
PAC Meeting  
@ 6:00pm

Tuesday, Sept. 30  
National Day for  
Truth and  
Reconciliation  
(Schools closed)

Thursday, Oct. 5  
1-Hour Early  
Dismissal

Monday, Oct. 13  
Thanksgiving (STAT)

Thursday, Oct. 16  
Great BC Shakeout

### New: No Dogs on School Property

To support the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors, we kindly remind families that dogs and other pets are no longer permitted on school property, including playgrounds and fields. This aligns with Administrative Procedure 255 (AP 255), which outlines the District's commitment to maintaining safe learning environments. While we recognize the important role animals can play in therapeutic and educational settings, only approved animals, such as certified assistance dogs, are permitted—and must remain under control at all times. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming space for everyone at George Bonner Elementary.

### Parking Lot

Please help us to keep students and families safe during pick up and drop off by:

1. Reminding your child to use the crosswalk when crossing to the school, to not walk in the bus loading area, and to remain on the sidewalk when traveling on and off school grounds.
2. Avoiding parking in the bus lane, staff parking lot, and in congested areas.
3. Following the speed limit in the school zone of 30 kms/hr.

Families are also asked to be mindful of the school's neighbours and to not block driveways.

### Message from the District Indigenous Education Department: Indigenous Ancestry & Support

‘Uy’skweyul! Tansi!

Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous Education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at [ined@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:ined@sd79.bc.ca).

As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)

It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used. We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

### Backpacks and Inside Shoes

Students are encouraged to bring a backpack to school each day. Backpacks are helpful for keeping personal belongings together and for bringing items to and from school. Please also send inside shoes with your child to wear in the classroom and gymnasiums.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2025

2025/2026

We're excited to work alongside the dedicated staff at George Bonner Elementary and appreciate the experience and care they bring to our students. A tentative staffing plan is outlined below, and families are welcome to contact the school to connect with teachers. We also wish to share that Mr. John Boan-Mitchell has announced his retirement as the teacher-librarian. Mr. Boan-Mitchell has been a longstanding member of the Cowichan Valley School District and spent the past 10 years at George Bonner. We thank him for his contributions and wish him all the best in his retirement.

<b>Div. 1</b>	Mr. M. Burgess	<b>Music</b>	Mrs. N. Baxendale /
<b>Div. 2</b>	Ms. D. Morgan / Mrs. B. Archer		Mrs. T. Carter
<b>Div. 3</b>	Ms. H. Heyes	<b>Physical Health Education (PHE)</b>	Ms. B. Archer
<b>Div. 4</b>	Mrs. K. Michaud	<b>Library Learning Commons (LLC)</b>	Mrs. A. Hallet
<b>Div. 5</b>	Ms. K. Young	<b>Learning Support / Inclusive Education</b>	Ms. A. Sorenson
<b>Div. 6</b>	Mrs. C. Keel		Mrs. S. Hiles
<b>Div. 7</b>	Vacant		Mrs. D. Jamieson
<b>Div. 8</b>	Mrs. C. Hall	<b>Indigenous Education</b>	Ms. K. Joyce
<b>Div. 9</b>	Mr. T. McDonald		Mrs. O. Najera-Henry
<b>Div. 10</b>	Ms. E. Cadorette		
<b>Div. 11</b>	Mrs. M. Sinclair	<b>Counselor</b>	Mrs. S. Longridge
<b>Div. 12</b>	Ms. C. Smith	<b>SLP</b>	Ms. L. Cosford
<b>Div. 13</b>	Mrs. C. Burgess	<b>ELL</b>	Ms. T. Cameron
<b>Div. 14</b>	Mrs. M. Frueh / Mrs. T. Carter	<b>Feeding Futures</b>	Mrs. M. Wainman
<b>Div. 15</b>	Ms. S. Caetano	<b>Out-Of-School Care</b>	Ms. T. Quinn, Mrs. T. Johnston, Mrs. D. Austad
<b>Div. 16</b>	Mrs. A. Bell		
<b>Div. 17</b>	Mrs. A. Leslie		
<b>Div. 18</b>	Mrs. P. Taylor		
<b>Education Assistants:</b> Ms. D. Young, Mrs. J. Symons, Mrs. M. Wainman, Ms. T. Johnston, Mrs. J. Kunert, Ms. T. Quinn, Ms. A. Quist, Mrs. D. Austad, Mrs. N. Barclay, Mrs. A. Dawes, Ms. A. Eddy, Mrs. H. Hutchins			

## Attendance and Lates

At George Bonner Elementary, we value regular attendance and being on time for school and class. When students are absent or arrive late, they miss important learning experiences and opportunities to build relationships with peers and staff. We encourage families to prioritize consistent attendance and punctuality to support student success. Classes begin at 8:30 am.

## Medical Alerts

If your child has any allergies or medical concerns, please ensure this information is shared with their teacher and the school office. Keeping medical information up to date helps us respond appropriately to your child's needs and contact you quickly in case of an emergency. Thank you for helping us keep all students safe and supported.

## PAC News

The first PAC Meeting of the school year will be held on Monday, September 29th after the Welcome Back BBQ at 6:00 PM in the school library. All parents and guardians are warmly invited to attend. During this meeting, attendees will vote for the PAC executive positions for the upcoming year (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer). Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!