



GEORGE BONNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

3060 Cobble Hill Road
Mill Bay, B. C. V0R 2P3
Phone 250-743-5571
Fax 250-743-4871

Website: www.sd79.bc.ca

Email: gbsecretary@sd79.bc.ca

Principal: Ms. Heidi Grant E-mail: hgrant@sd79.bc.ca

Vice-Principal: Ms. Nicole Boucher E-mail: nboucher@sd79.bc.ca

School Planning Council Goals 2011/12:

- *To improve numeracy skills for all students with a focus on problem solving.*
- *To promote school connectedness within a healthy school environment.*

February 6, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our school year is now half over! Ms. Boucher and I will soon begin planning for next year. Teachers continue to provide numerous opportunities for students to join activities outside of the classroom through both extra-curricular sports and academic enrichment. Please encourage your child to take advantage of these opportunities.

UPCOMING DATES

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • February 6 | Pro-D Day (school closed) |
| • March 12 to March 16 | Five day District school closure |
| • March 19 to March 23 | Spring Break |
| • April 6 | Good Friday (school closed) |
| • April 9 | Easter Monday (school closed) |
| • May 4 | Pro-D Day (school closed) |
| • May 21 | Victoria Day (school closed) |

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION POSTER & LITERARY CONTEST

The Royal Canadian Legion holds a Poster and Literary Contest each year (Bonner is sponsored by the Cobble Hill Branch). Bonner had a number of winners at the local level. **Calista Woods** placed 1st, **Kyjauna Marshall** 2nd and **Kyla Toljander** 3rd in Intermediate Colour. **Cailyn Wilcox** placed 1st in Intermediate Black & White and **Rachelle Keen** placed 1st in Junior Colour. In Intermediate Poetry **Lauryn Jarabeck** placed 1st and **Lauren Robilliard** 2nd. **Nyah Miranda** placed 1st and **Megan Erwin** 2nd in Junior Poetry. Well done! The winning entries went to the Zone level (Island). It is a pleasure to report that **Rachelle Keen, Nyah Miranda** and **Calista Woods** are winners at the Zone level. Prizes and certificates will be given out on Saturday, February 25th at 11:00 a.m. in Victoria. Congratulations!

SCHOOL GOALS AND PLC EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Staff at George Bonner School continue to use their PLC (Professional Learning Community) early dismissal days to work professionally and collaboratively. Discussions and work has been in the areas of technology, connectedness and healthy schools, organization, social responsibility, math problem solving and struggling learners. One of our school goals is to promote school connectedness within a healthy school environment. We are proud to offer 40 minutes of P.E. daily and a myriad of extra curricular activities. We open up the gym before school whenever we have sufficient supervision. Monthly "Move for Health" days continue on or about the last Friday of each month. One Grade 8 division sponsors and plans this event monthly.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

As there are no formal report cards being issued at this time, please continue to communicate with your child's teachers regarding progress. If you have any concerns, please contact the school.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents frequently come to the school for meetings and to help in various areas. Bonner is a large school and we cannot possibly all know each of you. It is School District policy that all visitors must identify themselves at the office. In most cases, we will ask you to sign in and out. This allows us to know, in case of an emergency, who is in the building. Please do not be offended if a staff member questions you as to whether or not you signed in at the office. In addition to your safety, we are also responsible to monitor all visitors in the interest of student safety.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY & LOSS OF POWER DAYS

During the year, the school may be closed due to inclement weather. The Board Chair, in consultation with the Superintendent, makes all decisions including cancellation of bus transportation. These announcements will be posted on the district website at www.sd79.bc.ca and the following media outlets will be notified and report on the school district status: CKKQ 100.3, CBC 90.5, SUN-FM 89.7, CFX 1070. A Channel will also be notified.



If the power goes out at Bonner once the school is in session then the following procedures will be followed:

- Principal will contact the Director of Education to determine the length of the power outage.
- If the power outage is to continue for some time, the Principal will contact the Superintendent to determine if the school is to be closed.

Depending on how long the power is going to be out, the Superintendent may decide to send the buses early. Unlike elementary school, we are not required to phone every family. Therefore, it would be wise if your child either:

- has a key to the house or has access to a key when he/she arrives home;
- or has instructions to go to a neighbour's house in case of such an emergency.

We will keep your child at school if it is not safe for them to take a bus home without first making contact. In such circumstances, your child needs to report to the principal or vice-principal.

SCIENCE FAIR

Last week, students in Divisions 73 and 74 participated in the first science fair George Bonner Middle School has seen in a few years. These students, along with three talented young ladies from Mrs. Hopwo's and Mrs. Van Hell's classes started working on their projects in October and completed most of the work needed to be done on their own time. This was a large scale project that included writing a 6 paragraph essay, creating a large display board and presenting to visitors we had invited to attend and share in our success. Mrs. Bates, Mr. Ingram, Mrs. Hopwo and Mrs. Van Hell would like to congratulate their students on a job well done!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY – Ms. V. Allan



Our new year started off being as busy as ever, with Grade 7 classes pursuing **research** on Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. They have learned the important skills of note-taking, writing their research findings in their own words to avoid plagiarizing, and producing a quality piece of original work. Their project fulfilled many learning outcomes in both the Social Studies and English curricula. Some Grade 6 students have already started on their library research projects on China, and the rest will follow in the near future.

Also at this time of year we ask students to review the reading goals they set in September. I am impressed by how many have achieved their goals already! They are now setting new ones and looking at ways to be more successful in their reading. Goal-setting is an important part of our HACE curriculum.

Groups of avid readers from all grades are participating in book awards programs; Grades 6 and 7 in the **Red Cedar** and Grade 8's in the **Stellar Book Awards**. These two programs give students the opportunity to read new books by Canadian authors, analyze them critically, and then vote for their favourite in April. What a powerful opportunity for young readers to really make a difference in the life of an author! We look forward to voting day in April and the results being announced in May.

MOVE FOR HEALTH DAYS - K. Simmons

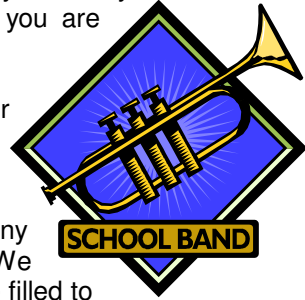
December's Move for Health Day's theme was the "Keeping it Cozy" and was sponsored by Division 88. January's Move for Health Day's theme was "Far out Friday" and was sponsored by Division 82. Thank you to both divisions for organizing and promoting two great mornings that got the whole school out and moving!

BAND NEWS – Mr. G. Launder and Mrs. T. Carter

Students in Jazz Band are in the midst of preparations for the Cowichan Music Festival on March 1st at the Cowichan Community Centre. Permission forms and \$10 for entrance fee and busing are due by February 10th. One parent is needed for transportation of equipment. Please let Mr. Launder know if you are available on the morning of March 1st with a large vehicle/van/SUV or truck.

Grade 8 band students had a very successful bottle drive in January raising \$2328.33 for their spring band trip. Thank you to all the students and parents who assisted to make it a huge success.

As of today, the Grade 8 spring band trip to Vancouver will be happening! Hopefully, given any unforeseen circumstances, the Grade 8 trip to Vancouver will occur on April 26, 27 and 28th. We currently have 67 students participating in the extra-curricular trip. There are 3 spots needed to be filled to keep the final cost of the trip at \$400 per student. Deposits (\$100) are due by February 15th. Practices for the Grade 8 band trip are mandatory on Wednesday's at lunch. More information to follow.



Grade 7 band students are preparing music for performances at Cobble Hill, Discovery and Bench on April 11, 12 and 13th. A small busing fee will be required for the trips to Cobble Hill, Discovery and Bench. Parents (3) will be needed with large vehicles for assistance with musical equipment transportation on the mornings of April 11, 12 and 13th. More information to follow.

Thank you to all the parents for encouraging students to persist and keep practicing on their band instruments. More information is coming out all the time about the social, emotional and educational benefits of playing a musical instrument. Practicing at home also makes a huge difference in the success and growth of the students in the music program.

GEORGE BONNER BEARS TC10K TEAM - K. Simmons

It isn't too late to join the George Bonner Bears TC10K Team and walk, jog, or run on April 29th! Everyone is welcome - students, staff, families and friends. You will need to register before March 23rd. To register as part of our team and receive a custom team t-shirt, follow the directions below:

Go to www.tc10k.ca

Click on "Individual Registration"

Complete form and select "George Bonner Bears" under the drop down menu called 'Club/Team or School Name and Press 'submit'



Group Practice Days: If you would like to do some of your training sessions with other members of the George Bonner Bears Team please come out on the following Mondays:

February 13th

February 20th

February 27th

March 5th

March 26th

April 2nd

April 16th

April 23rd

We will be meeting at 3:00 p.m. by the change rooms and will be done by 4:00 p.m. (as the length of our workouts increases, we may extend this time to 4:30). If you have any questions or if you would like a training schedule, please contact Ms. Simmons or email her at ksimmons@sd79.bc.ca

PAC - Internet Safety for Parents

Frances Kelsey PAC is pleased to invite all parents and guardians to this parental workshop entitled "Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship 101 for Parents" at 7:00 p.m. in the school theatre on Wednesday, February 15th. During the last Balance Day at Frances Kelsey, on November 28th their Grade 9 and 10 students heard a presentation on Cyber Bullying from Darren Laur of Personal Protection Systems in Victoria. Mr. Laur shared information on how he posed as a teenage girl and made Facebook friends with quite a number of students at Frances Kelsey. Those students were shocked to find that the truth was far different from the social media image that he had presented. The same workshop is being offered to Grades 11 and 12 during the day and parents in the evening. A quote from a student follows:

"It made me think twice about what I post on Facebook and how I act on the internet." "I am at a loss for words, it was so powerful." "I think it is great what you are doing. I especially think it is awesome considering the fact that I used to be bullied via Facebook." These are just some of the testimonials that Grade 9 and 10 students wrote after their November workshop.

PAC Meeting
Wednesday, March 7th
(tentative date)
Kelsey Presentation

In closing, if you have any concerns or problems, please contact the counsellors or teachers directly.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Grant, Principal

HG/jb



February 2, 2012
For Immediate Release

NO EARLY DISMISSAL ON FEBRUARY 16TH OR MARCH 8TH

February 16th and March 8th will be regular days in session for students, not early dismissal days, as formal parent/teacher interviews will not be proceeding. Students will be dismissed at the normal time and busses will be running on the normal schedule.

We apologize for any inconvenience this change of plans may have created for families.

Dates to note:

- February 6th - Pro D Day (no classes)
- February 16th - regular day in session for students (no early dismissal; no parent/teacher interviews)
- February 22nd - PLC Early Dismissal (schools will dismiss 80 minutes early)
- March 8th - regular day in session for students (no early dismissal; no parent/teacher interviews)

Media Contact:
Joe Rhodes
Superintendent of Schools
250-748-0321
School District website: www.sd79.bc.ca

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- **KERRY PARK RECREATION** is offering the following upcoming programs. Hope to see you there.

Safe Kids	Ages 5 – 7	Wednesday, Feb 15
Never Bee Lost	Ages 5 – 7	Wednesday, Feb 15
Bullyproofing	Ages 7 – 11	Wednesday, Feb 22
Cyber Safe	Ages 8 – 11	Wednesday, Feb 22
Learn to Skate	Ages 4 – 15	Tuesday, Feb 28 – Mar 27
Babysitters Training	Ages 11+	Thurs/ Fri, Feb 23 – Mar 2

To register or for more information please call Kerry Park Recreation at 250-743-5922.

- NOTICE FROM THE VANCOUVER ISLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY:** Children who received the first dose of Hepatitis A at either Margaret Moss Health unit, a local health centre or mass community clinic are now due for their second dose of Hepatitis A and **the vaccine is now available**. Please contact the local health centre where your son/daughter received their first dose to schedule an appointment. Thank you.

250-709-3050 for Margaret Moss Health Unit
 250-749-6878 for Lake Cowichan Health Unit
 250-746-6184 for TseWulTun Health Centre
 250-743-3900 for Malahat Health Centre
 250-246-2127 for Halalt Health Centre
 250-246-9885 for Penelakut Health Centre
- COWICHAN VALLEY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION** is looking for players for their spring season. Gear is provided. The cost is low and there are financial assistance options. For more information go to www.cowichanfootball.com.
- MARIMBA DANCE!** Featuring Malaika Marimba, Masimba Marimba and Kurai Mubaiwa. Sounds from Zimbabwe! All proceeds to support families and musicians in Zimbabwe! Saturday, February, 18th at Cobble Hill Hall 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. Family Friendly! Concession available! Tickets: \$10 each or \$25 for a family (12 and under) available at Discovery or Cobble Hill School Office or phone 250-743-9949.
- SAANICH WATER POLO SCHOOL'S JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2011-2012:** Saanich Water Polo School's Junior Development Program is structured for the development of the Grade 6 and under and the Grade 7-9 age groups respectively. Practices are held by NCCP Certified Coaches – at Commonwealth Place Pool. There is some flexibility for your convenience although the more practices you can attend the better! Registration: Step 1 - Please send us an email letting SWPS know that you will be taking advantage of the program and also the days your athlete will attend. The email address is: waterpoloschool@shaw.ca We will send you a registration form - unless we already have one filled out through a school program you had been participating in. Step 2 - Bring registration form and the post dated cheques (made out to SWPS). Program fees are fully refundable minus the annual registration fee which is essentially your first month's payment. If you need more information please do not hesitate to contact Gabi Vindisch at: waterpoloschool@shaw.ca
- WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR FROM UGANDA** is performing at Cobble Hill Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17th - admission by donation.

February, 2012

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Library	2	3	4
5	6 Pro-D Day (no classes)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 PLC Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m.	23 Personalized Learning Forum FKSS	24 Move for Health Day (Walk, Jog, Run)	25
26	27	28	29 PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Library			



MATH PROBLEM OF THE MONTH

The Math Department at George Banner Middle School will be starting a monthly math problem for students to solve at home with their parents. Every student, with a parent partner, is eligible to enter one solution each month.

All correct entries will be placed in a draw to win a prize!

There are 2 problems this month so there will be 2 chances to win \$5 Tim Horton's Card!

JANUARY MATH PROBLEM

"A VERY GOOD YEAR"

The year 1978 has an unusual property: When you add the 19 to the 78, you get 97 - the middle two digits of the year!

What will be the next year to have this same property?



Answer: _____ Name: _____ Div: _____

FEBRUARY MATH PROBLEM

The boys in Miss Heart's class each gave one girl in the class a Valentine's Day card. Try to match the card giver to the card receiver: Randy has blue eyes. Matt is 12 and has brown eyes. Sam is 13 and has green eyes. David has Hazel eyes. Rhonda has green eyes. Megan is 13 and has blue eyes. Sabrina is 12 and has hazel eyes. Carla has brown eyes.

CLUES:

1. No one gave a card to someone whose name begins with the same letter.
2. No one gave a card to someone with the same colour eyes.
3. No one gave a card to someone the same age.

Answer: Randy _____ Matt _____ Sam _____ David _____

Name: _____ Div: _____

Parent Signature: _____

*** Please return all entries to your homeroom teacher! ***

