



GEORGE BONNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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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.*

January 9, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the staff, best wishes for 2012!

We are back to carry on the second term of school and it is certainly hard to believe that the middle of the school year will soon be upon us. January and February are basketball months in extra-curricular sports.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

January 11	Wednesday	Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m.	
February 6	Monday	Pro D Day	No classes
February 22	Wednesday	Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m.	
March 12 - 16		Five Day District Closure	No classes
March 19 - 23		Spring Break	No classes
April 6	Friday	Good Friday	No classes
April 9	Monday	Easter Monday	No classes
April 25	Wednesday	Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m.	

STAFF CHANGES

Mr. Damian McDonald has been teaching English, Social Studies, and P.E. to Divisions 87 and 88 since September. His contract ended December 16th. We would like to thank Mr. McDonald for the excellent start he has given these students and for his calm, enthusiastic support of all school activities. We wish him success in his next contract and look forward to seeing him at Bonner again.

Mrs. Debby McQuhae has been teaching English and Social Studies to Division 81 as well as Sewing and Computers to Grades 6 – 8 since September. Her contract ended December 16th. We would like to thank Mrs. McQuhae for the excellent start she has given these students and for all of her efforts to keep the exploratory program running smoothly. We wish her success in her next contract and look forward to seeing her here again.

Mrs. Jen Calverley has returned from her maternity leave. Mrs. Calverley will now be teaching English, Social Studies, and P.E. to Divisions 87 and 88. Welcome back!

Mrs. Sue Arnold has returned from a medical leave. Mrs. Arnold will be teaching English and Social Studies to Division 81 as well as Sewing and Cooking to Grades 6 – 8. Welcome back!

WINTER ACTIVITY DAY CANCELLED

In accordance with the BCTF job action and the supervisions required, we are unable to offer Winter Activity Day this year. February 17th will be a regular school day.

EMAILING OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

On Monday, January 9th the January newsletter will be issued both as an email and in hard copy. In the future we will only issue hard copy newsletters to students for whom we have no email address. A test email was sent to all our parents/guardians on Thursday, January 5th. If you did not receive that email it is because we have either an incorrect email for you or none at all. If you did not receive the test email and would like to receive further newsletters in that format, please email the office at gbsecretary@sd79.bc.ca with your email address and your child's name. Thank you!

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 Superintendent will determine if the school is to be shut down.



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 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.

EMERGENCY PLANS

At George Bonner Middle School we have plans in place in the event of a serious emergency, such as an earthquake. Each year you provide names of people whom you allow us to release your child to in an emergency. In the event of an emergency we request that:

- cell phones not be used;
- when you, or your designate, arrive at the site, please report to the student sign-out area;
- if you have particular skills, medical or otherwise, and are able to assist, please identify yourself to the site manager.

FOUNDATIONS SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA) & MINISTRY SURVEYS

1. FSA will take place during the weeks of January 16 – 30 (Grade 7)
2. Parent Satisfaction Survey will take place during the January to March time period (Grade 7)
3. Student Satisfaction Survey (Grade 7 only) will take place in March

BUSES

Students are only allowed to ride the bus for which they are registered. We have a directive to not approve any changes to bus riding as that must be done through the transportation department 250-748-1066.

BAND - Mr. G. Launder & Mrs. Carter

Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who helped out on Dec 8th and 13th to make the Winter Music Concerts a huge success. Thank you also goes out to all the students and parents who helped with the band fundraising. The Grade 6, 7 and 8 band students were able to sell over 512 poinsettias this year and the Grade 8 band students were able to sell over 400 EJ Hughes calendars. Way to go! Future plans for fund raising include selling Serious Coffee in January and February and possible bottle drive in January.

Students in Grade 8 band and students in the Jazz Band will now be preparing for performances at the Cowichan Music Festival in Duncan in February 29th and March 1st at the Cowichan Community Centre. Students in Grade 7 will be preparing to perform at local elementary schools (Bench, Cobble Hill and Discovery) in early April and students in Grade 6 will be preparing to perform for the Spring Concert in May.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY – Ms. V. Allan

As the year draws to an end in the library it is time to acknowledge the people who give their time and effort to help out in this busy place. Firstly I must applaud our dedicated teams of library monitors. Without these energetic students I would be buried under a mountain of tasks ranging from shelving books to labeling folders, sorting Scholastic flyers and stamping new materials. The monitors cheerfully perform these daily tasks and learn in the process!

Parents help in the library too! **Julie Vliet** comes in to mend books and process Scholastic orders; and Cindy Little, Cheryl Jacques, Caroline Evertse and Stacey Bowler have all helped out with shelving or other tasks, thank you!

On the academic side of things, Grade 7's have begun their **research on Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia** and, in fact, some classes have already completed their "powerful questions". This project will continue with more classes in January. Research projects fulfill many learning outcomes in both the Social Studies and English curricula. This is one important function of a school library – cooperating with classroom teachers to address the many skills-based learning outcomes.



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and many happy hours of relaxing reading over the holidays!

PENNIES FOR PRESENTS- Div. 63 and 64 (Grade 6)

'The Linked Together Team' would like to sincerely thank George Bonner students, teachers, parents and the community for your very generous support of The Cowichan News Leader/Pictorial's annual fundraiser 'Pennies for Presents'. With your help, we collected, rolled, graphed and donated an astounding record breaking total of \$1350.00!! The Salvation Army and Cowichan Food Baskets used this money to purchase food for hampers and small gifts for those less fortunate over the Christmas Season. We are so proud to be involved, to make a difference and to be able to see such small change grow to make a BIG change in so many people's lives. Thank-you so much! Happy New Year!



LEGO ROBOTICS - Mrs. L. Thomson

In mid-September our Robotics team, Lego My Eggo, began their preparation for the Vancouver Island Lego Robotics Tournament held at Bonner on December 3rd. Eleven teams participated in the event. Each team was required to build and program a robot to complete a number of difficult tasks in two minutes. In addition, they were required to present a project related to the prevention of food contamination and to demonstrate effective teamwork. Our robot, "Waffles", finished in an incredible third place. The team was entirely responsible for strategizing and programming the robot and pulled out an incredible run in the third round that ensured their top-three finish. Our project, The Boxinator, was an invention created to help prevent food spoilage in student lunches. The judges were really impressed with the model our team created. A big thank you to our lead programmers, **Shayla Grymaloski** and **Luke Bennett** and to our project team **Sam Postuk**, **Aleah Grymaloski**, and **Robin Zinkan**.

I was immensely proud of this group of students who demonstrated not only excellent skills in the Challenge's tasks, but also showed great team work by taking on a variety of roles and coming together to achieve a common goal. They represented George Bonner very well.

GRADE 6 SWIM TRIP – by Aleah Grymaloski and Robyn Zinkan

Swimming was so much fun! We left at 11:00 a.m. on December 13th and arrived at the pool shortly after. After we got changed the lifeguard went over some of the basic rules with us. Everyone was excited to whip down the slides, catch some waves in the wave pool and play tag in the lazy river. I am sure some people enjoyed playing with the floaty toys! A special thank you to Mr. Ready for organizing this field trip for us. We really appreciate your hard work, it as a day full of fun!

DSAC – by Wynn Rederburg

This year the District Student Advisory Council took part in the Backpack Project, a program that helps underprivileged children get what they need for the cold winter months. We took donations of scarves, hats, socks, school supplies, as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and other toiletries. The DSAC collected donations through October and November. At the meeting on December 7th, all the donations were packed into backpacks and sent to shelters across the Cowichan Valley. In the end we donated over 50 backpacks!

GEORGE BONNER BEARS TC10K TEAM - K. Simmons

Join the George Bonner Bears TC10K Team and walk, jog, or run on April 29th! Everyone is welcome - students, staff, families and friends.



Registration goes up by \$5 on January 31st but is open until 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 "Registration" and then "Individual Registration"
- Complete form and under the section "Team Details" select "yes" for "I want to join a team" and then select "George Bonner Bears" under the drop down menu called 'Club/Team or School Name' and press 'submit'.

YEARBOOK 2011 – 2012

Do you own your business? Would you consider placing an "ad" in our Yearbook? This tasteful, colourful book goes out to approximately 600 homes. Ad prices start at \$40.00.

Please email svanhell@sd79.bc.ca or phone the school at 250-743-5571. Your son or daughter can bring home a Yearbook Advertising Contract, which has further information. All "ads" and monies should be received no later than January 31, 2012. Thank you for supporting our Yearbook.

BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE

We have many rules and guidelines for student behaviour at George Bonner Middle School, most of which are based on the school's Code of Conduct. At times students and parents question how these rules are enforced. We are proud of the calm and respectful atmosphere that exists here, despite the fact that we have over 600 adolescents on site.

Every effort is made to consistently enforce our Code of Conduct, however, there are multiple factors to be considered. Not all students are alike and having one set of consequences for a given offense does not help us meet the eventual goal of changing behaviour and creating socially responsible students. Much behaviour at this age is impulsive. Distinctions must be made between behaviour intended to cause problems and other behaviours. Education is the goal in most cases. We also have a progressive model of discipline, which in general means increasing consequences from warning to possible suspension if incidents repeat. Within this model, there are certain behaviours that result in an immediate suspension.

Finally, privacy of the individual is a right. This means we cannot discuss other students with parents or students' peers. This often leaves the impression that other students involved in a given situation did not get into trouble or were unfairly treated. There are many considerations when dealing with inappropriate behaviours with this age group.

Please feel free to contact a counsellor (Mrs. Butler or Mrs. Chabot) or the principal or the vice-principal if you have concerns or questions. Ms. Boucher and I are extremely pleased with the conduct of our students this year.

LOST & FOUND

We are overwhelmed with the amount of clothing left behind each day by our students. Despite our best efforts, students are reluctant to pick up clothing out of Lost & Found even if it is their clothing. If you suspect your child is missing some clothing, we would really encourage parents to come to the school and have a look through these bags. Any unclaimed items will be taken to Salvation Army on a monthly basis.

GRADE 8 PARENTS

It will soon be that time of the year to start planning for the transition to secondary school. If your son/daughter is planning to attend either Quamichan Middle School or Mt. Prevost Middle School for Grade 9 (not Kelsey), you must complete a blue out-of-attendance area form available at Bonner. Without this form, you will not be on the wait list to get into those schools. It is always best to start this process as early as possible.

STUDENT RELEASE

Please remember to send a note in the agenda when your child is going to check out before the school day is finished. This is especially important when you are going to have older brothers or sisters or other friends or relatives pick up your son or daughter. We are not allowed to release your child without your permission. Please remember to sign your child out at the office before the student leaves the school.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

What is School Parent Advisory Council (PAC)? According to B.C. Federation of Parent Advisory Councils: The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is the legally recognized voice of parents at the school level. Many schools had parent groups (PTA's) prior to the introduction of the 1989 School Act; however, their existence was usually at the discretion of the principal. Now, parents have the right to form a PAC, and the School Act requires that school boards recognize PAC's when requested by parents.

Every parent or guardian of a child registered in a school has a right, under the School Act, to belong to the PAC. The principal, staff liaison, students and community members may be invited to attend meetings. PAC's often meet monthly to consider school and community issues of interest and concern to parents and to organize parent education. On a regular basis, usually once a year, the members of the PAC executive are elected in accordance with the PAC's constitution and bylaws.

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to become more involved in your children's schooling, why not begin by attending a PAC meeting. All Bonner parents and guardians are voting members and are invited to attend. We are always in need of ideas, plans and suggestions. Please plan on joining us! PAC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Bonner Library.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- **Duncan Dynamics Gymnastics –Tumble Trial.....** Take a tumble trial with our evening drop in sessions on Tues, Thurs & Sat evenings. Adults welcome too!! For more information, please contact Jackie at: 250-746-0193 or duncandynamics@shaw.ca
- **Cowichan Field Hockey Registration for boys & girls:** Registration is at the Island Savings Centre (beside the gym) for ages 6 – 17 (by December 31, 2011) on Saturday, January 28th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Please bring 2 cheques per child. For more information visit their website at www.cowichanfieldhockey.ca or contact Heather Goodman at 250-748-5611 or email her at heather@cowichanfieldhockey.ca.
- **Cowichan Football:** Players are wanted for the spring season of the Cowichan Valley Football Association. Gear is provided, cost is low and there are financial assistance options. For more information go to www.cowichanfootball.com

I must acknowledge the outstanding Winter Concerts held in the Bonner Multi-Purpose Room on the evening of December 8th and 13th. I would like to congratulate Mr. Launder, Mrs. Carter and the band students for their commitment and dedication to the band program.

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

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Grant, Principal

HG/jb

January, 2012 Calendar

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3 Schools re-open	4 PAC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7
8	9	10 Metis fidler to perform in a.m.	11 Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16 FSA	17 FSA	18 FSA	19 FSA	20 FSA	21 FSA
22	23 FSA	24 FSA	25	26	27 School Wide Move for Health Day 5K Run/ Jog/ Walk	28
29	30	31 Spelling Bee				