

GEORGE BONNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Website: www.sd79.bc.ca
Principal: Mr. H. S. Jawanda
Vice-Principal: Mr. T. Zinkan

BONNER NEWSLETTER

School Planning Council Goals:

1. Literacy

- To continue to improve students' success in writing in terms of knowledge, skills and attitude.
- To continue to improve students' interest, skills and attitude towards reading for information.

2. Numeracy

- To continue to improve students' knowledge, skills and attitudes related to mathematics.

3. Social Responsibility

- To continue developing each student's ability to solve problems in peaceful ways.

March 2, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the Spring Term! This month brings us to the end of our basketball season, Spring Break and report cards. As well, the counsellors, Mr. Zinkan and I will be starting our visits to our feeder schools (Discovery, Bench and Cobble Hill) to begin programming for next year. Also in early April, counsellors from Frances Kelsey Secondary will be visiting our Grade 8 students to register them for Grade 9. If your son or daughter is not attending Kelsey for Grade 9, please let me know as soon as possible. If you live in the Kelsey attendance area and you wish your child to attend a different school, you must fill out an "out of attendance area" form to register (usually Mt. Prevost or Quamichan).

As you have no doubt heard, students living out of Kelsey attendance area must fill out an "out of attendance area" form by March 31st and hand it in at the School Board Office to have a chance to register for Kelsey. Failure to fill in this form will automatically remove that chance.

1. The enrollment for Frances Kelsey Secondary School will be capped at 1150 for the 2009/10 school year.
2. All current Grade 9, 10 and 11 students will be enrolled for next year.
3. Any students wishing to attend Kelsey from out of catchment area must submit the "out of attendance area" (blue) form to the School Board Office beginning March 1, 2009 and ending March 31, 2009. These students will be required to register at their normal home school as well.
4. Ten spaces are reserved for the enrollment of students whose families may locate within the Kelsey catchment area over the summer.
5. The enrollment of additional students will take place before June 1st and continue in order from the following designated groups until the desired student capacity of the school is reached:
 - The current George Bonner Grade 8 students from outside the Bonner School catchment areas who seek enrollment at Kelsey;
 - The Grade 8 siblings of current Kelsey students from outside the catchment area who seek enrollment;
 - All other students who seek enrollment.

For those Grade 6 & 7 students who do not live in the Bonner attendance area but wish to come back to Bonner for Grade 7 or 8, you must also fill out the "out of attendance area" form. Please remember that these forms must be completed each year. The Kelsey deadline does not apply to completing the Bonner form.

HEADING INTO FRANCES KELSEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

The K-8 system in our area has been designed to help children prepare for upper grades. Elementary schools in the South Cowichan Valley prepare children for George Bonner Middle School and in turn Bonner prepares them for Frances Kelsey. Children who have attended elementary schools in this area have learned to use an agenda and work on independent projects. I have found that students who have gone through this learning process adapt well to the new learning experiences at Frances Kelsey. Parents will find that students have even more individual responsibility to complete homework and projects than when at Bonner.

I have found Kelsey to be a very positive experience for my children. The advisor concept provides support for struggling students. Your child is assigned an advisor that he or she keeps for their entire Kelsey years. Siblings can also be assigned to the same advisor. Communicating information within the family and especially on Parent/Teacher/Student nights makes our hectic lives somewhat easier.

Students at Kelsey need to have a strong voice. Your child's self-esteem plays a huge role at this level of schooling. Help is always available when needed but your child must not be afraid to ask. Ensure that you and your child understand the system of green slips, mandatory classes and flex blocks; all new ideas since we were in school.

You will find that at Frances Kelsey, failure to complete a grade "on time" is a distinct possibility. In our house, course completion by the suggested date is a definite goal, not just a target. Students must complete all lower level courses before moving to the upper grades. A simple request to the teacher is all that is required for extra help. As a parent it was difficult to step back and not be involved in the day-to-day classroom work. However, teachers always return phone calls and are grateful for parent help and support at extra-curricular functions.

Make yourself known to the Principal and the Vice-Principals and to your child's teachers, especially their advisor. Any good relationship is based on a mutual understanding of one another and good communication.

These are learning years for your children. The adult opinions and ideas that your child began forming during Middle School may now become their thoughts for the future. There is still time to be a pro-active parent and encourage them to become independent adults.

- Yours in education, a former Grade 8 Parent

GRADE 8 PARENTS AND STUDENTS

The March 4th PAC meeting will be entirely devoted to learning about what it takes to be successful at Kelsey. Four Kelsey students (one from each grade) will be in attendance to make a presentation as well as to answer your questions. The meeting will be especially helpful if this is going to be your first child to attend Kelsey. It would be great to see a large turnout of parents. Frances Kelsey registration will take place in April.

PROGRAMMING FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Right after Spring Break, Mr. Zinkan and I are out to visit our feeder elementary schools regarding next year. In the fourth week of March our counsellors will visit each of our Grade 6 and 7 classes to register them for the next grade. These registration forms are due in to Bonner by April 7th.

REPORTING

During the month of February, all of you should have received an Interim Report Card showing your son/daughter's progress to date. This will be followed by our Parent/Teacher Interviews on March 12th. The end of the second term for reporting purposes is February 27th and the second official report card will be coming home on March 11th. Watch for it!

There were only 15 students receiving one or more "I"s on the last interim report compared to 55 last year and 31 the year before. An "I" grade means potential failure. The following data will show the distribution of the "I" grade by number, subject and grade.

Number of I's	Number of students	By subject	Number of I's	By Grade	Number of I's
1	11	English	6	6	0
2	1	Social Studies	4	7	1
3	2	Science	4	8	14
4	1	Math	9		

SATISFACTION SURVEY

All Grade 7 students will complete these surveys online at the school in March. Grade 7 parents will also have an opportunity to complete the survey online. Information to complete the survey was sent home last week. If you do not have access to a computer at home, please come and use one at the school.

FSA (FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT)

Mr. Zinkan and I really enjoyed working with Grade 7 students to complete the Foundation Skills Assessment. Only a few students were excluded as per their Individual Education Plans. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all students for their hard work. The FSA consists of the following parts:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Online Reading | 60 minutes |
| 2. Online Numeracy | 60 minutes |
| 3. Reading Comprehension | 30 minutes |
| 4. Shorter Writing | 30 minutes |
| 5. Longer Writing | 60 minutes |
| 6. Numeracy Written | 30 minutes |

If you would like to see sample FSA online questions, the website address is:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/eassessment/fsa_sample.htm

Your child's FSA booklet will be sent home in April or May once it has been marked. The combined school results from the Online sections, as well as the written parts, are usually not available until the fall.

COUNSELLING – Mrs. J. Chabot / Mrs. P. Butler

We have completed the first two terms of the school year and have just one to go. This final term at Bonner is often a difficult one for many of our Grade 8 students. Talks of transition to high school can make it tough to focus on completion of Grade 8 outcomes. It is a good idea to have a conversation with your child to remind everyone we still have one third of our present year to complete.

In past years, towards the end of the year, we have seen two issues arise for some of our students: depression and experimentation with drugs, alcohol and sex. Kids today have been exposed to so much media and technology information. Some of the signs that might be indicators that your child is "at risk" might be: changing groups of friends, a drop in school achievement, change in personality/mood, decline in personal hygiene, red or glassy eyes, not wanting to attend school, bringing large amounts of money to school, paranoia if asked about friends, or a sudden change in eating/sleeping patterns.

Absenteeism makes it hard for a student to be successful. We have noticed a disturbing trend regarding Mondays and students absent from school. Please remind your child that every day is important. If you would like any further support or information, please contact the counselling office at the school.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY – Ms. V. Allan

February has been a very busy month in the library and my heartfelt thanks go out to Brianne Melnyk for stepping into this busy position for me while I was on sick leave! While I was away Miss Melnyk guided the final three Grade 7 classes through their research projects, producing "ancient scrolls" from the point of view of early humans. As if that wasn't enough to keep her hopping, over 100 new books arrived in the library during the past month! It is always a challenge to keep up with books needing to be processed, never mind those that need to be shelved, mended, retrieved from being overdue and searched out for our demanding clientele! Other lessons conducted in the library in February included resetting reading goals and learning the important skill of website evaluation.

I am happy to be back in the hot-seat and look forward to seeing parents and students in the library for the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. This year's spring fair will take place on March 10, 11 and 12. This will be a great opportunity to buy some books for holiday reading over spring break. Scholastic's generous profit plan really gives our library collection a boost. The fair will be open during student-led conferences on the evening of March 12th, and during school hours on all 3 days. If you are available to help at this event, please contact Ms.

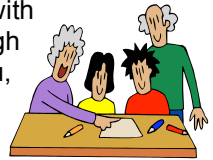
Allan. Thank you.



After spring break it will be the turn of the Grade 6s to hone their research skills with a project on China; I look forward to working with this year's Grade 6s, most of whom I already know from their exploratory French classes.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

The second parent-teacher interviews will be held on Thursday, March 12th from 3:15 to 8:30 p.m. with a dinner break for teachers from 5:00 – 5:30. We will be using the student-led format again although some teachers may want to meet with a few parents individually. If this format does not work for you, please phone your child's teacher(s) to make alternate arrangements.



COWICHAN MUSIC FESTIVAL (SPEECH ARTS) - Mrs. A. Aitken

Congratulations to the 29 students from Divisions 65 and 66 who memorized and recited a poem at the Cowichan Music Festival. The event was held in the Multi-Purpose Room in the morning of February 17th. Thank you to the many parents and guests who came out to show their support. Congratulations to: **Teagan West, Michael Coleman, Cedrick LaFlam, Silas Ashton, Colin Campbell, Clea Harrison, Joisan Fairwell, Nicho Letient, Sydney Oakley, Kristian Petersen, Kathryn Williams, Julia Kent, Brianna Moulton, Kristen Farley, Graydon Clark, Natalie Williams, Olivia Hardman, Cassidy Smith, Chelsea Ellison, Robin Sheaves, Kennedy Jones, Sean O'Neill, Katiana Creelman, Jordan Suchotzky, Lora McAlpine, Graeme Jackson, Sabrina Barr, Nick McLean and Callum MacLeod.**

Honourable Mention:

Michael Coleman

Lora McAlpine

Katiana Creelman

Nicho Letient

Colin Campbell

3rd Place: **Callum MacLeod**

2nd Place: **Kristian Petersen**

1st Place: **Graydon Clark**

Congratulations to Divisions 65 and 66 for their wonderful performance at the Cowichan Music Festival. The adjudication raved about the two poems they performed and their special talents. The group of 56 students also sat patiently and applauded respectfully for the other eleven groups of performers and are to be congratulated for being such a great audience for the three-hour event. Following this event they were rewarded with a pizza lunch for their efforts.

BAND NEWS – Mr. G. Launder

Students in the Grade 8 concert band and the Jazz band had very successful performances at the Cowichan Music Festival on Feb 25th. The students' hard work in preparation for the festival definitely paid off. Well done to both groups!

Grade 7 students are preparing for three performances at local elementary schools after Spring Break. Here are the times and dates for the Grade 7 band performances:

April 1	Cobble Hill School	9:45 – 10:30
April 2	Bench School	9:45 – 10:30
April 3	Discovery School	9:45 – 10:30

Parents offering to help with transportation will be contacted by Mr. Launder sometime in March. A spring trip has been organized for Grade 7 band students for May 7th to Nanaimo. Students will have the opportunity to perform at two elementary schools in Nanaimo, go swimming at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and spend time at Woodgrove Mall having dinner and shopping. Cost for the trip will be approximately \$50. Sign up for the trip will be first come, first served. Students who have completed fundraising will have a reduction in the cost of the trip. More information to follow.

A performance and field trip for band students in Grade 6 has been set for the morning of May 12th at Gordon Head Middle School with lunch at Gyro Park. More information to follow.



Final payments for the spring trip (April 23 to 25) to Vancouver/Abbotsford for the Grade 8 band students will be due at the end of March. Each student will receive an amount owing based on the amount of fundraising earned. Thank you to all parents who helped out with this year's band fundraising activities.

BIG BAD MUSICAL – Mr. J. Robinson / Mrs. K. Arnot

Many students have been working long hours outside of class time to bring a dramatic production back to George Bonner. We auditioned before Christmas and had the pleasure of selecting from a large group of talented actors and actresses. Our courtroom has been built and lyrics have been learned. All we need now is a jury. Please come out and enjoy the results of all the hard work on Friday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m., or Saturday, March 7th at either 1:00 pm or 7:00 p.m. Your job will be to help decide the fate of none other than Mr. Big B. Wolf himself who has been brought up on civil charges filed by the likes of Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs and the shepherding grandmother of the Little Boy who Cried... well you know. The show is suitable for all ages. Tickets are \$5.00 available at the door or see any cast member, Mr. Robinson or Mrs. Arnot. Call the school for more information. See you at the show! Can't make it? DVD's are available through pre-order sales.

**DISTRICT MATH CHALLENGE - Mrs. M. Webb**

The **Middle Level Math Challenge** is an annual district-wide competition for students in Grades 7, 8 & 9. Each school is allowed to bring one team of 4 per grade. Math Challenge provides students who have a strong aptitude for math to challenge themselves with different problems. It also gives our students an opportunity to meet with capable math students from other schools.

The competition involves three rounds:

- A sprint round - students work independently
- A pairs round - solving problems with a partner
- A team round - solving a group challenge.

This year's competition was held at Chemainus Secondary on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009.

Grade 7 participants: **Robin Holford, Mica Grant-Hagen, Aren Beagley & Hehley Park**

Grade 8 participants: **Jessica MacLean, Emily Jackson, Toby Owens & Brodie Dayton-Mills**

Each team placed second in the competition overall. Well done Bonner students! Thank you to Ms. Linda Dayton for driving many of the students to Chemainus so they could participate in the competition.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations to **Nadine Biefield** on winning a place in the Creative Communications anthology, an online contest for writing poetry and essays. Nadine has been chosen as one of the top ten winners from across North America. Great job Nadine!

WINTER ACTIVITY DAY

The staff and students enjoyed a great Winter Activity Day on Thursday, February 19th. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Roach for organizing the activities, arranging for transportation and making up various lists for supervising teachers. Many thanks to the staff who helped in other ways. There are hours of planning required to pull a day off like this for nearly 600 students as well as over 50 staff. There were 3 buses to Mt. Washington for skiing and snowboarding, 5 buses to Vancouver Aquarium, 3 buses to Vancouver Science World and then smaller groups joined rock climbing, golf/tennis, crafts, floor hockey/badminton and a few students even came to catch up on school work. Over 80% of the students participated in the Winter Activity Day.

**GRADE 8 BOYS' BASKETBALL 2008/09 SEASON & TOURNAMENT**

Congratulations to the Grade 8 boys' basketball team on a wonderful season. On Monday, February 23rd the boys hosted a successful district tournament which included Saltspring Island, Duncan Christian, Queen of Angels, Quamichan, Brentwood College and Chemainus. The boys demonstrated outstanding team spirit and skill, placing third overall. Thank you to all those adults, parents and students who gave up their own time to make this final tournament a success. We especially would like to acknowledge Mr. Jawanda, Mr. Cutt for their refereeing and Mrs. Rogers for organizing the canteen of food and beverages for coaches and players. Also, thank you to Mr. Wiersma, Cam Patterson and all those who helped run the score and timekeeping tables.

Team members are: **Cory Lewis, Aaron Gagnon, Kristian Manns, David Whitney-Brown, Ryan Taylor, Ben Slang, Chad O'Connell, Jerod Dorby, Matthew Laurie, Mike Kubica, Brennan Stothers, Jeff Lederer, Avian Marinakis, Riley Galavan, Gord Keen, Anthony Neufeld, Paul Henderson and Justin Van Horn.**

The boys are looking forward to a wrap-up event where they will play co-ed games with the Grade 8 girls' basketball team. Thank you from Mr. Perren, Mr. Cutt, Mr. Posey and Mrs. Rogers.

MIDGET GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM – Mrs. J. Chabot

This season, eighteen enthusiastic girls have stuck with twice-weekly, early-morning practices since December. These girls have improved immensely at both basic skills and team play. The team did well in league play, winning all of their games except one which they lost by one point. The highlight of our league play was a road trip to Saltspring Island on a bright sunny February day. The sprint to the return ferry equaled the hustle shown on the court! This group of girls has talent, coachability and incredible drive to do well – they definitely know basketball as a “running” and “thinking” game.



Bonner hosted the mid-island tournament on Tuesday, February 24th. The final tournament proved to be our most exciting part of the season. In the final game the team fell behind early, but worked hard to come back and score with one second remaining! We played well in overtime and won the Mid Island District Championship. A great end to a great season! Huge thanks go to our adult drivers Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Bell, Mr. Grant and Mrs. Manraj.

Team members are: **Andrea Lyon, Jessica MacLean, Leanne Eriksen, Darby Fischer, Samara Johnson, Bella Pope-Menu, Dana Bell, Mary-Kate Cross, Casey Leech, Jessie Grant, Emily Jackson, Lauren Kellar, Grace Hardman, Michelle Shields, Nicole Crowley, Maya Munzar, Laurel Nixon and Pavithra Tatachari.** Coaching this group of girls has been my pleasure.

SCHOOL BUS REGISTRATION FOR 2009/2010

Bus registration forms for the 2009/10 school year were sent home in February. Please note that you must register your child each year for busing. These forms should be returned to your school **no later than May 1st** as the Transportation Department is currently working on 2009/10 busing and early registration will assist them in determining school bus routes and requirements. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Transportation office at 250-748-1066, extension 272 and speak with Teresa.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, March 2	Newsletter
March 10 – 12	Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday, March 11	Report Card #2 issued
Thursday, March 12	District 1 hour Early Dismissal at 2:00
	Student-Led Conferences
	from 3:15 to 8:30 (Dinner Break 5:00 – 5:30)
Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20	Spring Break
Wednesday, April 1	Early Dismissal at 2:00
Friday, April 10	Good Friday (School closed)
Monday, April 13	Easter Monday (School closed)
Wednesday, April 29	Bonner Early Dismissal at 2:00
Friday, May 1	District Professional Development Day (School Closed)
Friday, May 15	Day off in lieu (School closed)
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day
Tuesday, June 9	French 8 exam
Tuesday, June 16	Last day of classes
Wednesday, June 17	Exam Day
Thursday, June 18	Exam Day

THRIFTY SMILE CARDS

George Bonner Middle School has organized a lunch program to provide a well-balanced meal to students in need. To help fund the lunch program, the Parent Advisory Council of George Bonner is encouraging parents who currently shop at Thrifty Foods, to use a Smile Card to pay for their purchases. The cards are similar to a prepaid bankcard and are easy to use. Simply take the card with you to Thrifty Foods when you go grocery shopping. Ask the cashier to load any amount you wish onto the card **before** paying for your grocery order. Pay for the card load with cash, debit card or credit card, and then pay for your grocery order with the Smile Card. Thrifty Foods will donate 5% of the amount loaded on your Smile Card to the Lunch Program. There is absolutely no cost to you. When the card is running low, load it again to continue to support the school every time you shop!



To obtain a card, simply stop by the school's office and pick up a card or send a note in your child's agenda. A card will be signed out to you and you will begin to support the program as soon as you make your first grocery purchase using the card. If you have any questions, please phone Janice Cross (PAC coordinator) at 250-743-7154. The George Bonner Lunch Program appreciates your help.

B.C. SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE**NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM**

Eat your colours every day. For breakfast: sprinkle blueberries (blue/purple) on your cereal or add frozen strawberries or raspberries to your breakfast smoothie (red) or add green pepper to your scrambled eggs (green). For snacks: pack carrot sticks (yellow/orange) or a red apple or some green grapes. For lunch try cherry tomatoes (red), a kiwi (green) or nectarine (yellow/orange). For dinner have a green salad, some potatoes (white), corn (yellow) or beets (red). You get the picture – try to eat a rainbow of colourful frits and vegetables every day.

COMMUNITY OPTIONS SOCIETY

COS is offering an evening course for parents of teens that will start Tuesday, March 24th and will run through to May 12th. The course will be Gordon Neufeld's video presentation of "Making Sense of Adolescence" and will be facilitated by Diane Dous. The course will be run from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. with the video presentation by Dr. Neufeld, followed by a group discussion. This course is offered free to the community. Pre-registration is required due to limited space; please call COS at 250-748-0232 to register.

IN SUMMARY

George Bonner continues to be a very busy place. A big "thank you" to all the staff who volunteer their time for extra-curricular activities. Coaching teams, drama production, Winter Activity Day and field trips require a great deal of time. We are fortunate that so many of our teachers see the value of providing these opportunities for students.

H. S. JAWANDA, Principal

HSJ/jb

MARCH, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Newsletters Home Grade 7 begin new exploratory	3 Lunatic Landers Grade 6 (9:00 to 11:30)	4 Big Bad Musical Dress Rehearsal	5	6 Big Bad Musical (Drama Production)	7 Big Bad Musical (Drama Production)
8	9	10 Scholastic Book Fair	11 Report Card #2 issued Scholastic Book Fair	12 Student-Led Parent/Teacher Conferences Marsville Displays Grade 6 Scholastic Book Fair	13	14
15	16 Spring Break	17 Spring Break	18 Spring Break	19 Spring Break	20 Spring Break	21
22	23	24	25 Grade 6 begin new exploratory	26 Awards Term #2 by grade Grade 6 Whistler Trip	27 School Wide Move for Health Day Grade 6 Whistler Trip	28

29	30	31				
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