



# 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.*

October 3, 2011

### **Dear Parents:**

The first month of the school year is now behind us. By now your son/daughter's homeroom teacher should have contacted you by phone or letter to welcome you to Bonner as well as to tell you about some upcoming dates and activities.

Each of the 11 teaching teams has met to choose a team name. Team names are:

Divisions 61 & 62	Chained Champions
Divisions 63 & 64	Linked Together
Divisions 65 & 66	Bonder Bears
Divisions 67 & 77	Peanut Butter & Jelly
Divisions 71 & 72	Cooperative Koalas
Divisions 73 & 74	The Interconnectors
Divisions 75 & 76	The Platypussbearsquirrel Association
Divisions 81 & 82	The Amigo Chain
Divisions 83 & 84	The Unified Unicorns
Divisions 85 & 86	The Facebookers
Divisions 87 & 88	Crazy Glue

Bonner's enrollment is 612 students with 200 Grade 6's (7 divisions), 173 Grade 7's (7 divisions) and 239 Grade 8's (8 divisions). We have completed our Bill 33 (Class Size and Composition) consultations. There are 12 classes/divisions with more than 30 students having a Ministry Special Ed designation and two divisions with more than 30 students. In addition, 1 exploratory block and 4 band classes have more than 30 students. We will make every attempt to have the best learning conditions with the staff allocated to us. I have also shared our class size and composition with our School Planning Council. I am now obligated to address teacher concerns brought up during the consultation process.

### **SCHOOL E-MAIL ADDRESS**

If you would like to contact Bonner by email, you can contact the secretary at [gbsecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:gbsecretary@sd79.bc.ca) and your email will be delivered to the appropriate staff member. You can also have our newsletter emailed to you by responding to this address.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Student photos were taken on September 12<sup>th</sup>. If your child was absent that day, there will be another opportunity to have a photo taken on Retake Day on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Your child should have received their "proofs" and if you haven't already done so, if you want to order photos, you must hand it in to the school office this week. If your child does not like the photo, they must bring the proof envelope with them to have their picture retaken on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY**

**Tom Mansey, Wynn Rederburg and Kelly Grounds** have volunteered to be Bonner representatives on the District Student Advisory Council (DSAC). Each middle and secondary school is allowed 2 to 3 members on the DSAC. The Council meets once per month with the Director of Middle/Secondary Education or the Superintendent to discuss issues of concern to students. This is a great leadership opportunity for **Tom, Wynn and Kelly**.

### **LOSS OF POWER DAYS**

During the school year, we may have some days when the power goes out at the school. When this happens:

1. The Principal will determine how serious the power outage is and how long Hydro estimates the power will be out.
2. The Principal then contacts the Superintendent re: if the school is to be shut down, busing, etc.

If the Superintendent decides to close the school early then the students will be sent home. Unlike elementary school, we are not required to phone every family. It would be wise to have your child either:

- have a key to the house
- or give your child instructions to handle such emergencies.

Of course Ms. Boucher and I will provide supervision at school if your child has to remain at the school.

### **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Parent Advisory Council Annual General Meeting and elections of the new executive will take place on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> in the Library at 7:00 p.m. Bonner PAC is mainly a support group for the school and any problems or activities are often brought to this group for input. School Planning Council members are also elected at this meeting.

#### **PAC Meeting**

Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 pm  
in the Library – everyone welcome!  
PAC Executive and SPC elections will be held

### **YEARBOOK – Mr. B. Niessen**

The George Bonner Yearbook Club has begun working towards creating another exceptional yearbook for our students, teachers and parents to enjoy. Our group will be dedicating many hundreds of hours chronicling the highlights of our school year in photos and words.

Please watch for more details in the November newsletter about the yearbook pre-sale.

Parents, would you like to support our yearbook by placing an ad in it? Prices start at \$40.00 for a business card sized ad. Please email ([svanhell@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:svanhell@sd79.bc.ca)), drop off a hard copy at the office or call 250-743-5571.



### **NEWS FROM GRADE 6**

Recently the Grade 6 students participated in a bike safety course and bike rodeo. We then rode or walked through the streets of Cobble Hill. The staff were very pleased and proud of the excellent effort and behaviour of the students. Thank you to the parent and student volunteers. You were great and we could not do this without you.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE - DIVISIONS 61 & 62**

The Chained Champions (Div 61 +62) are pleased to again support the Garden House Society Annual Book Sale at Cobble Hill Hall on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>. During the spring of 2011, Divisions 61 and 62 organized and supported a Children's Book Drive at George Bonner School in association with the Garden House Foundation and the books collected will form part of the upcoming event. This worthy cause supports literacy in our community and monies raised are donated to families in crisis and animals in need. We will continue supporting this Foundation with our current classes, the "Chained Champions". Event organizers will visit George Bonner School on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Carter and Mr. Posey will send an information letter home and coordinate 9 to 10 student volunteers and 3 to 4 parent sponsors to form a 3 hour work party on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to Noon at Cobble Hill Hall. Thank you for your continued support.

**BAND: Mr. G. Launder & Mrs. T. Carter**

Now that all students in band have their instruments, folders and music, students should be developing good practice routines, taking good care of their instruments and remembering to bring the instruments to school on the correct days. Practicing is an essential element of learning an instrument. Please make sure students in band have a proper space around the home to practice. Students in band should be practicing 3-4 times per week for a minimum of 60 minutes per week recording the number of minutes on their practice card. Practice cards need to be signed by a parent and handed in at the end of each month (October 28 - 30).

Jazz Band: Jazz band practices for Grade 7 and 8 students will be Wednesdays at 7:45 a.m. and Thursdays at lunch in the band room. This is a good opportunity for musicians in Grade 7 and 8 to get exposure to jazz, blues and rock music.

Concert Band: (Grade 7 and 8 only) Practices will be every other Wednesday at lunch in the band room. The Grade 7 Concert Band is a performing ensemble which will travel and play at local elementary schools (Bench, Discovery and Cobble Hill) in the spring. The Grade 8 Concert Band will perform at the Cowichan Music Festival in late February and possibly travel to Vancouver in the spring.

Grade 8 Concert Band: October 5, 19 and November 2 (every other Wednesday at lunch)

Grade 7 Concert Band: October 12 & 26 (every other Wednesday at lunch)

Fundraising: Students in Grade 6, 7 and 8 band classes will have the opportunity to participate in parent organized fundraising activities to raise their own funds new equipment, replace worn and old band shirts and the potential Grade 8 spring trip. Due to the current BCTF job action, it will be impossible to have any fund raising activities this year without parent help and organization. Please contact Mr. Launder if you are able to help out with fundraising (glauder@sd79.bc.ca). Potential band fundraising activities for this fall will be:

October: E.J. Hughes calendars (\$20 plus tax = \$22.00) for **Grade 8 students only**

November: Poinsettias (red, white, pink and marble) from Hilltop Greenhouses (approx. \$13 each) for all band students

**BAND SHIRTS**

All band students will have an opportunity to purchase band shirts (blue polo shirts with band logo). The cost for these shirts is \$25.00. Band shirts are worn by band students at school concerts, the Cowichan Music Festival and on band trips. Students who do not purchase a band shirt will be provided with a shirt for school concerts.

**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY – Ms. V. Allan, Teacher-Librarian**

September has flown by, and what a busy month it has been in the George Bonner library! I am excited to report that the library is a hive of activity every day as avid readers come and go constantly and circulation of books is always brisk. To date every division has had a library orientation session and a session on “choosing the right book”. They have also set their reading goals for the year.

Students have learned that research shows that it takes **90 minutes of reading per day** to improve one’s reading level. Our goal in the library is to find books to make *all* students enjoy reading enough to *want* to read for 90 minutes daily – enjoyment is the key!



Almost eighty students from all grades have signed up to be **library monitors**. They will soon be starting their basic training and will continue to learn “on the job”. I really value their contribution to the smooth running of our library and their eagerness to help out. Library monitor training will start very soon.

Did you know that our school has a website with useful links for all curriculum areas? Check it out at <http://www.sd79.bc.ca/schools/Bonner/more/>. Under the “Library” link students can access World Book Online which is an excellent resource for all areas of research. The library catalogue is also online at [bonnlibrary.sd79.bc.ca](http://bonnlibrary.sd79.bc.ca). Students can search for books available in our library from this site.

The **library is open** from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 3:25 p.m. daily. Should you have any concerns or questions about your child’s reading, please do not hesitate to drop in for a visit or call me. Thank you for your support of our library program!

**READER ALERT:** Popular Canadian author KENNETH OPPEL will be in Victoria at Chapters on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to promote his new book. Be there!

**CROSS COUNTRY TEAM - Ms. H. Roach, Ms. K. Simmons, Mrs. J. Riecken and Mrs. C. Gillis**

The Cross County Team consists of boys and girls from each grade level (6, 7, & 8). Practices for the Cross Country Team are on Mondays after school with Ms. Simmons and Ms. Roach from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (please be picked up by 4:00 p.m.), as well as Fridays at lunch time (11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.) with Mrs. Gillis and Mrs. Riecken. Our first meet will occur in Duncan at noon on Wednesday, October 5th. The next meet, the Mid Islands, will also be in Duncan on October 13th, followed by the Island Age Groups meet at Beaver Lake on October 18th. For all meets, information and forms will be provided to students prior to the meet. Each meet will be supervised by one of the coaches. All students are welcome to join the Cross Country Running Team at any time throughout the year.

**HALLOWE'EN MASQUERADE – Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:35 – 2:35**

For a Hallowe'en celebration we set the afternoon aside for some fun activities for the students. Some activities under consideration are: pumpkin carving, a bike ride, videos, cooking, a sock hop or ball hockey. The week before the activities, students will be given the choices and will have a few days to decide which activity they plan to take part in. Also, students may dress up in their appropriate Hallowe'en masquerades! Please note that even on these special days, our Dress Code still guides us.

**GR. 8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM**

The current volleyball season was off to a fast start with the girls playing their first games against Mt. Prevost and Duncan Christian School on Sept. 19 and 26. Practices are held every Tuesday and Thursday morning starting at 7:45, with a focus on two or three hit volleyball rather than one hit pingpong. The season will continue through November with a final tournament at Bonner on November 14th.

**PARENT VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

If you wish to be a parent volunteer driver for a school activity you will need to provide a driver's abstract and have a copy of your license and insurance (showing at least \$2,000,000 liability insurance) photocopied to be kept at the school office.

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

This is a reminder that if your son or daughter is absent due to illness, a family trip or medical appointment, please phone the school to let us know. We have voice mail so just leave a message if the school is closed.

**MEDICAL ALERT**

We have a few students with severe allergies to nuts that could result in life threatening situations. Any contact with even small traces of nuts, tasting, touching or smelling, could be life threatening to them. We want our school to be a safe place for everyone. Please reinforce good hand washing practices with your child.

**HEAD LICE AWARENES:**

Outbreaks of head lice are common throughout the school year. Although head lice are a nuisance, **head lice are not a health risk**. Head lice spread quickly by close, head-to-head contact. Lice cannot live on furniture or carpet, and they cannot jump or fly. There may be few or no symptoms, but itching may occur.

You can help by:

- ♦ Checking your child's head with the wet-combing method of detection once a week throughout the school year.
- ♦ Encouraging your child to wear their hair tied back, and avoid touching heads with other students.
- ♦ Using the wet-combing method of treatment if you notice lice on your child's head.
- ♦ Telling the classroom teacher if your child has head lice, so other parents can be notified.
- ♦ Review the pamphlet "Wet Combing – How to Get Rid of Head Lice" available at your school and health unit

For more information contact: Margaret Moss Health Centre at 675 Canada Ave., Duncan, B.C. V9L 1T9, Phone: 250-709-3050 or Fax: 250-709-3055

**WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS**

We would like to remind parents and students that as seasons are changing, wildlife, bears, cougars, etc. may be coming down into populated areas to find food or shelter. Please be aware of the risk of children walking alone to their bus stop or school.

It is evident when you either visit the school or read the monthly newsletter that there are numerous opportunities for Bonner students. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated educators. I would like to take this opportunity to thank teachers, support workers, parents and students for helping to make George Bonner Middle School a great place to learn.

Yours truly,

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H. Grant, Principal

HG/jb

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES:**

- **Teen Skates at the Island Savings Centre in Duncan (13 to 18yrs)** - Music will be Blastin!! Have a chance to WIN PRIZES. The last Friday of the month Sep 30<sup>th</sup>, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> and Dec 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:30pm to 8:50pm
- **Breakout Recreation (14 to 18yrs)** A neutral place for youth to hangout, shoot hoops, play soccer, invent an entirely new game. There is free play as well as some organized activities in a supervised venue. Come and enjoy this very successful, FREE, drop-in program Wednesdays 6pm to 8pm  
**Quamichan Middle School at the Gym Doors**
- **Youth Corner Drop-In Centre** in the Old Weight Room at the ISC. Teens, this is your place to hang out! Come see friends, play pool, video games or just chill. Find out what's going on in the valley while you're here; sign up for special game nights, cooking nights or whatever you help us plan! **It's free!** We are open: Mondays 3:00-6:00, Tuesdays 3:00-6:00, Wednesdays 3:00-6:00, Thursdays 3:00-9:00, Fridays 3:00-10:00
- **Youth Dances (10 to 13yrs)** -The next Dance at the Island Savings Centre is October 14<sup>th</sup> 7-10pm. Don't be disappointed, get your tickets early as the dances are selling out fast!! Must show student ID or proof of age. The DJ is awesome and will play all your requests. A concession will be open and coat check available. \$8 per ticket

For more information about these events please contact Denise Williams, Youth Outreach Programmer at the Island Savings Centre, Office: 250-746-0417, Email: [dbegley@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:dbegley@cverd.bc.ca)

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

- Pro D Day Camp: Jumping Jiminy's & Swim	Ages 6 – 12	Monday, October 3
- Cyber Safe	Ages 8 – 11	Wednesday, October 19
- Intro to Curling	Ages 9+	Fridays, Oct 7 – 28
- Pro D Day Camp: Pumpkin Patch & Swim	Ages 6 – 12	Friday, October 21

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

- **GOOD BITE LUNCH COMPANY** is offering to supply student lunches delivered to our school. Full bagged lunches are just \$6.49 each with 4% back to our PAC. Lunches are ordered online using healthy, organic, local wholegrain products and with vegetarian and nut free choices. Check them out at [www.goodbitelunch.com](http://www.goodbitelunch.com).

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OCTOBER, 2011

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
						1
2	3 Newsletter issued	4	5 Staff Meeting PAC Meeting at 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)	11	12	13 District Wide 1 Hour Early Dismissal at 1:45	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Provincial Professional Development (School Closed)	22
23	24	25 Photo Retakes	26 PLC Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m.	27	28 Move for Health Day Hallowe'en Masquerade	29
30	31					

**NEWS FROM THE VANCOUVER ISLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Dear Parent, Guardian or Representative:

Although Hepatitis A vaccine is not a routine childhood immunization in BC, Hepatitis A vaccine was offered to children aged 6 months to 18 years in the winter and spring of 2011 to reduce the potential spread of Hepatitis A virus. Many children received the first dose of Hepatitis A vaccine at a local health centre, mass community clinic, or at school.

One dose of Hepatitis A vaccine is considered very protective, and two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine is typically recommended to people to provide lifetime protection from the disease.

You may be expecting your child to be due for his or her second dose of Hepatitis A vaccine in the fall of 2011. Given the extent of Hepatitis A activity on Vancouver Island we have used far more Hepatitis A vaccine than normally expected in the province. **Currently, we are not offering the second dose of Hepatitis A** and are focusing our efforts on ensuring people at risk can get a first dose of vaccine. **You will be notified about opportunities for your child to receive a second dose through your child's school or other means.**

Hepatitis A is a serious viral disease of the liver, which can make most people ill for several weeks but does not become a chronic condition. The Hepatitis A virus is found in the bowel movements (stool) of infected persons. People with Hepatitis A infection who use the bathroom without proper hand washing can pass the virus on to others through food preparation and sharing or other hand-to-mouth contact.

Symptoms of Hepatitis A, include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. These symptoms are followed a few days later by the occurrence of dark-coloured urine, light-coloured stools, and jaundice (yellow eyes/skin). Anyone who develops these symptoms should stay home from school, work, daycare or other activities and avoid preparing food for others. They should also contact a physician, community health nurse or HealthLink BC by dialing 811.

If you have any questions, call your local Health Unit or Health Centre

Duncan - Margaret Moss Health Unit 250-709-3050	Lake Cowichan Health Unit 250-749-6878	Ts'ewulhtun Health Center 250-746-6184	Stz'uminus First Nation 250-245-8551	H'ulh-etun Health Society 250-246-9495
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