



GEORGE BONNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Mill Bay, B. C. V0R 2P3
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Website: www.sd79.bc.ca

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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.*

September 12, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to George Bonner Middle School for the 2011-2012 school year. We are proud of the exemplary program we offer, our beautiful building, and our excellent staff. Our 625 students, in grades 6, 7, and 8 are organized into 22 divisions and 11 teaching teams.

We have a new administrative team this year, though neither of us are new to George Bonner. Ms. Nicole Boucher is our vice principal and she returns to us from Quamichan and the Aboriginal Education department. I have been principal at Discovery Elementary for the past four years. As the year progresses, you may have concerns. As always, your first contact should be with your child's teacher or if not a classroom issue, one of the school counselors. Please do not hesitate to visit the school or to contact me or Ms. Boucher at any time. We will make every effort to address your concerns. Our doors are always open, though we may be out and about in the school building on supervision or visiting classrooms.

Our classes are quite full and there are criteria used in placing students. A lot of time, consideration, and input has been taken to build the classes. Included in this newsletter is the process used. Any requests for change should be in writing and should identify the educational reasons.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and year.

Sincerely, Ms. Heidi Grant, principal.

NEWSLETTERS ON WEBSITE

Bonner Newsletters are available on the Bonner website. Please go to www.sd79.bc.ca and then click on SCHOOLS and continue to follow the cues until you get to George Bonner Middle School information. Or, if you would like the school to email you our newsletters, please let us know at gbsecretary@sd79.bc.ca. Thank you.

VISITING CLASSROOMS, MAKING APPOINTMENTS

We are very grateful to have supportive parents who show a great interest in our school. In order for the teachers to do the best job in the classroom, we ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

- In order to minimize the interruption of lessons, please phone and ask for an appointment when you need to communicate with teachers, rather than just popping in.
- If you visit the school, it is the School District's policy to wear a visitor's pass (that you pick up from the main office). Also, to preserve a safe and secure place for all students, it would be appreciated if you would meet the teacher at the office first.
- Often teachers are helping or supervising students before and after school and cannot be interrupted to take a phone call. The office staff has been instructed to take a message and the teacher will get back to you as soon as they can (usually by the end of the day).
- The best line of ongoing communication is the Agenda book. Please feel free to write a message in it any time.
- The school has a voice mail system (250-743-5571) for early morning or after school messages.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2011

In preparation for the school year, we have completed the class assignments. This is a topic of great interest to parents and it is important for parents to know something about how this process works. We consider a number of factors, but due to the nature of our school we are unable to take parental requests. With somewhere between 175 and 200 students at each grade level we simply couldn't begin to satisfy all the requests we might receive. Our priorities are as follows:

1. **Special Needs Students:** Special Needs students are defined by strict Ministry of Education criteria. A School Based Team always monitors their programs. In addition, we must ensure that no class has more than 3 designated special needs students unless there has been a rationale provided. Special Needs students might be placed in a particular class due to issues such as:
 - a) Physical access to classroom
 - b) Proximity to washrooms or special facilities
 - c) Availability of teaching assistants
 - d) Particular training of teacher
 - e) Social issues
2. **Students for whom a School Based Team has met regularly to plan an educational program:**
A school-based team monitors students who require an adapted program. Parents may request referral of their child to such a team. The School Based Team may suggest a particular placement based on issues such as:
 - a) Availability of support within a class for particular learning needs
 - b) Social concerns
 - c) Particular training of teacher
3. **Balance of academic abilities, gender and personalities:** In general, students are assigned to classes within the school so that there is a balance based on these criteria. Most students will be assigned to classes as part of this group. This is common practice at schools in this District. Decisions are based on the knowledge teachers have developed over the course of the previous year. Please note that we will have many new students next year, consequently, it is almost certain that some students' class assignments will be changed during the month of September and we always endeavour to preserve the balance in each class.
4. **Combined Grade Class Concerns:** In order to accommodate the students enrolled at George Bonner with the staff that we have been allotted by the District, combined grade classes (split grades) occasionally are required. All classes contain a wide range of student needs and abilities, whether they are combined or not. Teachers are trained and comfortable dealing with these needs, which may vary within a single grade as much or more than in a combined grade class. In the elementary years (K-7), the emphasis is always on the development of skills and strategies for learning. There is relatively little content that is not repeated in higher grades. What this means is that students skills and learning strategies can be effectively developed in a variety of grade configurations. You should not experience any anxiety about your child's placement in a combined class. What is most important is that your child is provided opportunities to grow and develop their skills in a safe, nurturing environment.
5. **Friendship and other issues:** We recognize that these are important to students and try to do what we can as part of #3 above. However, there are usually few places available to accommodate concerns that are based solely on friendships. Our priorities are always those of an educational nature. We hope this outline is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

STUDENT MEDICATION

The school does not have the authority to provide any medication (including aspirins) for students. If your child needs medication to be administered at school, the School Board requires that the parent/guardian must complete the "Request for Administration of Medication at School" form. This form is available at the school and must be returned to Ms. Boucher prior to any medication being administered.

RADIO, TAPE, CD DIGITAL PLAYERS, BEEPERS AND CELL PHONES

These are not allowed in class. The administration strongly encourages that these types of items be left at home since they are easily lost or stolen and nearly impossible to recover. The use of cell phones and other recording devices is challenging the ability of staff to monitor and guide students in their use. Digital cameras, cell phones and video cameras are adding a new dimension to the problem as photos and videos can be recorded without permission and distributed within minutes. Therefore, recording and transmitting devices such as cell phones, cameras, etc. are not permitted to be used or even visible during school hours. Listening devices are not permitted during class time. Staff process for handling confiscated devices is listed in the Agenda.



REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK

All requests for homework must be received by 10:00 a.m. in the office. If requested, homework for absent students is usually ready for pick up in the office by 3:30 p.m. Students who are absent for a short period of time (1 to 2 days) are to get assignments by calling a classmate. For longer (planned absence), the student or parents must request the collection of assignments from the teacher at least a week in advance.

**CORRECT ADDRESS**

If your address or telephone number has changed since you completed the registration forms, please notify the office.

TEXTBOOKS

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be issuing textbooks to students. All students will be issued their own textbooks. They will be responsible for safeguarding these books for the duration of the school year. In the event that a textbook is damaged or lost, a replacement fee must be paid before a new text is issued. We want you to know that the cost of textbooks has increased a great deal, so it is very important that your child makes looking after their texts a priority.

DRESS CODE

George Bonner has a dress code that was developed by a committee consisting of students, parents and teachers. The dress code was approved by the Parent Advisory Committee and adopted in March, 2003 and has been reviewed periodically over the years. (See the Agenda for Dress Code).

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS - Monday, September 12

Student photos were taken today at our school. In a week or so the students will receive "proofs" of their picture and an order form. Order envelopes will be collected in the front hall or can be handed in at the office.

**BAND - Mr. G. Launder**

Band Rental Night for students in band (Grades 6, 7 or 8) who need instruments will be Thursday, September 15th from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the George Bonner Gym. Larsen Music from Victoria will be providing the instruments and reeds. Instruments may be rented or purchased with debit, credit card or by cheque.

Band folders will be available again this year but unfortunately there will be a charge of \$2 for each folder.

A reminder that all students in Grade 6 and Grade 8 band will need to purchase a method book this year. Method books will be available on the evening of September 15th. Cost is \$10 (including HST) and \$15 for percussion. Method book fees may also be included with other school fees.

ART PROGRAM – Mrs. C. Gillis

Another year, another exciting opportunity to create! **Students:** throughout the year, Mrs. Gillis has poster contest details for a variety of local, provincial and national poster contests. Even if you are not taking art when a contest deadline is due, you are still able to enter your poster into the many contests. Come to the Art Room to find out about which contests are available. Currently, you can look at the Queen Alexandra Foundation For Children's request for art panels for Jeneece Place at their website: www.queenalexandra.org. or get a printed sheet at our school office. There is also a poster contest for Burn Awareness Week organized by the BC Professional Fire Fighters. Please go to www.burnfund.org for more information. Finally, there will be Remembrance Day poster contest, organized by the Legion. More details will be available in the next few weeks.



Parents who are interested in helping in the Art Room and putting up displays around the school are encouraged to call the school. Any help would be very much appreciated! Also, any crafty items which are no longer useful at home are like gold in the art classroom! We are always in need of clean egg cartons or styrofoam trays, raffia, wire, pipe cleaners, buttons, paper plates, dixie cups, ribbon, etc., so please drop off such items (labeled "art room") at the office if you no longer need them.

NAME ON CLOTHING

Middle School students are much more likely than elementary students to leave or forget their belongings and not retrieve them from the LOST & FOUND. We ask you to take the time to label all belongings (backpack, lunch bag, calculators, pencil cases, etc.) and clothing (shirts, jackets, hoodies, jeans, shorts, shoes, hats, etc.). It will prevent frustrations and save money throughout the year. Thanks!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY – Ms. V. Allan

We are starting the school year with a contest as usual. Students can enter the titles of their favourite summer reads to win great prizes! By s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g out summer to the end of September everyone will have plenty of opportunity to participate. We will be encouraging students to try out new genres, as expanding their reading horizons will stimulate their brain cells! I'm hoping this will encourage students to start borrowing books as soon as we have their names in the computer, and there has certainly been plenty of interest already.



Over the next few weeks every class will come for library orientation sessions which will include tips on how to find appropriate reading materials and setting goals for this year's reading. I will encourage students to explore new genres and challenge themselves to make reading part of their daily routine.

Students from all grades are invited to become library monitors – many have already signed up as interested candidates! Monitors perform a great number of useful tasks in the library and I look forward to training sessions with our new volunteers in the very near future.

We need **parent volunteers** in the library, both for the book fair and for other on-going work. Any parent willing to put in some time in the library, please come and see me and I will welcome you with open arms!

Thank you for your continuing support of our school library program. - Veronica Allan, Teacher-Librarian

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

To help students make the most of their P.E. classes, and to protect themselves and the floors of our two gyms, we ask that all students have clean, non-marking indoor runners at school. In addition, students will be participating in regular classes outside and our monthly school-wide move-for-health. A pair of outdoor athletic shoes is highly recommended to provide appropriate stability, support, and cushioning.

P.E. strip should be kept at school, including shorts or track pants, t-shirt, and a warmer top for when the colder weather arrives.

Locks: Due to theft, it is recommended that students use a lock to secure their belongings in the gym change rooms. As there are a limited number of lockers available, locks must be removed after a student finishes their scheduled P.E. block.

ATHLETICS - Mr. J. Cutt

For those students who are interested in competing on school teams, George Bonner provides many opportunities. Extra-curricular sports will be offered in volleyball, rugby, field hockey, cross country, basketball, soccer and track and field. Playing and practice days are yet to be determined. In addition, there are a number of athletic clubs in areas such as floor hockey, cycling club and ski/snowboarding.

At George Bonner we are very proud of our athletic program and our "no cut policy". The no cut policy means that if an athlete joins a team he or she is eligible to play if he/she:

1. attends practices and works hard,
2. attends meetings,
3. demonstrates good sportsmanship; and
4. presents his/her self in the proper team uniforms for games.

Athletes must make arrangements to be picked up promptly after team functions. It is district policy that coaches must supervise their players until they are picked up from the school. We do not want to burden our volunteer coaches by extending their day any longer than necessary.

HEALTHY SCHOOL EVENT – TERRY FOX RUN

This year our school will continue to have monthly school-wide walk/runs as part of our Healthy Living curriculum implementation. Students are encouraged to participate either by running, jogging or walking in this event. Our first event will be the Terry Fox Run and it will be held on Friday, September 30th from 9:00 – 10:10 a.m. We will have our traditional "Toonies for Terry" fundraising campaign and individual pledge sheets will also be available. As with all of these events, we welcome parent participation and/or help with supervision.



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

There will be a Cross Country Running Meeting in Room 142 at 12:00 p.m. during Lunch Time on Friday, September 16th. A training schedule will be set up to accommodate students. No running experience is necessary. This is a great way to cross train for any sport that you are already involved in. The first practice will be on Monday, September 19th at noon. Please meet in Room 142, ready to run (or walk/jog)!

GRADE 6 BIKE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Grade 6's will be participating in a bicycle safety course at George Bonner Middle School. The course involves two weeks of in-class instruction during silent reading, one day participating in a bicycle rodeo, and a culminating road ride. It is hoped that this will help introduce students to a life time enjoyment of bicycle riding, provide them with the necessary knowledge to safely travel on roads, and prepare them for the Grade 7 bike unit.

To help the bicycle rodeo flow smoothly, we are in need of parent volunteers to help supervise the stations. The rodeo will take place over two days, Tuesday, Sept. 20th for Divisions 61, 63 and 64 and Thursday, Sept. 22nd for Divisions 62, 65, 66 and 67. If you are interested and available to help on either or both days please sign the parent information form that will be coming home or email ready@sd79.bc.ca or dposey@sd79.bc.ca.

BONNER PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

PAC meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting will take place on October 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. This meeting will include election of the new Executive and School Planning Council members as part of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The following positions on the PAC Executive are open:

PAC - Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer

SPC - Three parent members (including one PAC Executive member)

Anyone interested should contact the school or attend the first meeting.

Each year, Bonner PAC awards two \$500 bursaries to former Bonner students. Last June's recipients were Alec Patterson & Stephanie Laurie. Congratulations!

SCHOOL PLANNING COUNCIL (SPC)

SPC is an advisory body whose responsibility is to consult with the school community in developing, monitoring and reviewing school plans for improving student achievement. SPC will have 5 members: principal, teacher and 3 representatives from PAC (one must be executive member). SPC will be elected at the first PAC meeting on Wednesday, October 5th.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

School District 79 (Cowichan Valley) Board of Education does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. We do make available an Accident and Life Insurance Program for students. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian. For your convenience, we have arranged a Student Accident Insurance Policy exclusively through Reliable Life Insurance Company. The insurance agreement is between you and Reliable Life Insurance Company. Participation is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian. Information and applications can be made on-line at www.insuremykids.com. Questions should be directed to Reliable Life Insurance Company toll free at 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation department has made the following regulations. Please go over them with your child.

1. Only students who are registered to ride a school bus will be permitted to do so. (Registration forms are in the office and can be handed to the bus driver this week.)
2. Students must ride only the bus for which they are registered. (NO notes from parents or teachers will be accepted. Students cannot ride the school bus to their friend's house.)
3. Students should disembark only at their regular stop.
4. Band instruments the size of a trombone and larger may not ride the bus.
5. No skateboards are permitted on the bus.

PARENT DRIVERS

It is a School Board requirement that an adult must submit their driver's abstract to the school prior to transporting students (other than their own children) in their vehicle. This abstract may be obtained from the Motor Vehicle Branch or at the Mill Bay Insurance Agency free of charge. You still need to present your current vehicle insurance papers and proof of a valid and current driver's license as always. If there is a possibility that you will be driving it is a good idea to do the "paper work" early in the school year to avoid last minute hassles.

B.C. SCHOOL FRUIT & VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

Did you know that our school is participating in the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program? Students will receive a free snack. The goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, but not to replace food normally consumed at recess or lunch. Fruits and vegetables contain vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, antioxidants and fibre that promote health and prevent disease. Studies show that Canadians in general are not eating enough fruits and vegetables.



Get the school year off to a good start with healthy good tasting fresh fruits and vegetables. For lunches:

- pick freshly-harvested B.C. fruits like apples, pears, plums and grapes, and vegetables like carrot and celery sticks, cherry tomatoes and colourful pepper slices;
- wash fruits and vegetables before packing in lunch bags.

For more information about this program, you can pick up a brochure from our school office.

If you **DO NOT** wish your child to participate in the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Snack Program, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school.

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The Bonner website address is: www.sd79.bc.ca. Please follow the links to visit the Bonner website as you will find a great deal of information about the school, including monthly newsletters and help with research skills.

In closing, once again we are looking forward to an exciting year at George Bonner Middle School. At our opening school assemblies, we urged your child to become involved in the many activities that are already happening at the school. These activities range from drama to sports activities (field hockey, rugby, volleyball, badminton, cycling, running and basketball) to the Yearbook Club (Mr. Niessen), to Band (Mr. Launder), to student leadership opportunities. Help us by encouraging your son/daughter to get involved in something at the school.

If there is any way in which I can help you, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the school. We are always looking for parent help. If you would like to help with putting up art displays or wish to be a class parent, please take time to fill out and return the form on the next page.

Yours truly,

Ms. H. Grant,
Principal

HGJ/jb

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- **Duncan Dynamics Gymnastics:** Registration is open for all of our ongoing, regular gymnastics classes. Programs for ages 2 to 18. Birthday party packages too. Come see our new foam pits. For more information, please contact us at 250-746-0193 or duncandynamics@shaw.ca.
- **Beavers / Cubs / Scouts / Venturers / Rovers** - Scouts Canada Registration night: There are many Scout Groups in the Cowichan Valley who are running great programs for boys and girls from age 5 to 18. There will be an Area-wide registration night on Tuesday September 13, from 6 to 8pm, at the Duncan United Church on the corner of Jubilee and Ingram streets, in Duncan. The cost is \$170 for the year, and there are family rates available as well. If you would like more info about our Groups, please contact our Area Registrar, Bill Thow 250-743-1683, or visit our website www.scouts.ca and use the Group locator to find someone near you!
- **1st Cobble Hill Scouts** Registration is on Sunday Sept 11th, 10 am - 2 pm @ Thrifty Foods in Mill Bay Mondays 6:30-7:30 Beavers Age 5-7, Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 Scouts Age 11-14, Thursdays 7:00-9:00 Venturers Age 14-17, Fridays 6:30-8:00 Cubs Age 8-10, or register at the Scouts Hall on the corner of Cameron-Taggart and Shawnigan/Mill Bay Road on any of the meeting nights.

- **Girl Guide 2011/2012 Registration:** Sparks – age 5 & 6, Brownies, age 7 & 8, Guides, age 9 – 11, Pathfinders, age 12+. Come and join the fun! Registration is at St. John's Cobble Hill on Tuesday, September 13th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call Janice at 250-748-2449.

SEPTEMBER, 2011

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Schools open Grade 6's only	7 All students in session	8 Fire Drill	9	10
11	12 Photo Day Newsletter issued	13	14	15 Band instrument rental evening 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Move for Health Day (Terry Fox Run at 9:00 am)	

OCTOBER, 2011

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
2	3 Implementation Day	4 Newsletter issued	5 Staff Meeting PAC AGM Meeting at 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)	11	12	13 District Wide 1 Hour Early Dismissal at 2:00	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Professional Development Day(School Closed)	22
23	24	25 Photo Retakes	26 PLC Early Dismissal at 1:40 p.m.	27	28 Move for Health Day Hallowe'en Masquerade	29
30	31					

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011/2012 - SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79 (COWICHAN VALLEY)

This calendar is based on the B.C. Ministry of Education Calendar Requirements and the C.V.T.F. Collective Agreement.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Comment</u>
September 5, 2011	Monday	LABOUR DAY	no classes
September 6, 2011	Tuesday	School Opening Day	
October 3, 2011	Monday	DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION DAY	no classes
October 3-4 2011	Mon-Tues	Provincial Exams (includes Grade 10's)	
October 10, 2011	Monday	THANKSGIVING DAY	no classes
October 13, 2011	Thursday	DISTRICT WIDE 1 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL	
October 13, 2011	Thursday	P/T Conferences: Elementary Schools	evening
October 21, 2011	Friday	Pro D Day (Provincial)	no classes
October 26, 2011	Wednesday	PLC Early Dismissal	
November 3, 2011	Thursday	DISTRICT WIDE 1 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL	
November 3, 2011	Thursday	P/T Conferences: Middle and Secondary Schools	evening
November 7-8, 2011	Mon-Tues	Provincial Exams (includes Grade 10's)	
November 10, 2011	Thursday	DISTRICT DAY IN LIEU	no classes
November 11, 2011	Friday	REMEMBRANCE DAY	no classes
November 23, 2011	Wednesday	PLC Early Dismissal	
December 16, 2011	Friday	Last Day of Classes	
December 19, 2011 - January 2, 2012		WINTER VACATION	
January 3, 2012	Tuesday	First Day of Classes 2012	
January 11, 2012	Wednesday	PLC Early Dismissal	
January 23-27, 2012	Mon-Fri	Provincial Exams (includes Grade 10's)	
February 6, 2012	Monday	Pro D Day	no classes
February 16, 2012	Thursday	DISTRICT WIDE 1 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL	
February 16, 2012	Thursday	P/T Conferences: Elementary Schools	evening
February 22, 2012	Wednesday	PLC Early Dismissal	
March 8, 2012	Thursday	DISTRICT WIDE 1 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL	
March 8, 2012	Thursday	P/T Conferences: Middle and Secondary Schools	evening
March 12 - 16, 2012		Five day District Closure	no classes
March 19 - 23, 2012		SPRING VACATION	
March 26, 2012	Monday	Classes Recommence	
April 6, 2012	Friday	GOOD FRIDAY	no classes
April 9, 2012	Monday	EASTER MONDAY	no classes
April 12-13, 2012	Thur-Fri	Provincial Exams	
April 25, 2012	Wednesday	PLC Early Dismissal	
May 4, 2012	Friday	Pro D Day	no classes
May 17-18, 2012	Thur-Fri	Provincial Exams	
May 18, 2012	Friday	DISTRICT DAY IN LIEU	no classes
May 21, 2012	Monday	VICTORIA DAY	no classes
May 23, 2012	Wednesday	PLC Early Dismissal	
June 18-28, 2012	Mon-Thur	Provincial Exams (includes Grade 10's)	
June 28, 2012	Thursday	Last Day of Classes	
June 29, 2012	Friday	Schools Close	no classes
August 13-15, 2012	Mon-Wed	Provincial Exams	

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS (2011/2012): ONE (1) HOUR DISTRICT WIDE (SCHOOL ACT AUTHORITY)

(NOTE: schools will dismiss 60 minutes earlier & afternoon school buses will run 60 minutes earlier on these days)
 Thursday, October 13, 2011 / Thursday, November 3, 2011 / Thursday, February 16, 2012 / Thursday, March 8, 2012

LOCALLY APPROVED EARLY DISMISSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL GOALS

(NOTE: schools will dismiss 80 minutes earlier & afternoon school buses will run 80 minutes earlier on these days) Wednesday, October 26, 2011 Wednesday, January 11, 2012 Wednesday, April 25, 2012
 Wednesday, November 23, 2011 Wednesday, February 22, 2012 Wednesday, May 23, 2012



September 1, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian

Health and Career Education 8 and 9 are required courses for students in British Columbia. The aim of Health and Career Education 8 and 9 is to provide students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will assist them in making informed decisions related to their health, their education, and their future careers.

Learning opportunities are designed to help students become thoughtful, caring individuals who plan and reflect, make informed choices, and take responsibility for their personal and career development. The curriculum encourages students to show initiative and accountability in decision making and helps them develop planning skills ranging from time management to self-assessment and from goal setting to locating and accessing sources of support and assistance. These skills apply to their work in every other subject area and to the activities they will undertake following graduation.

Health and Career Education teachers are always available to answer any questions that parents may have about the course. As well, students have been given an outline of the teacher's expectations and learning outcomes that make up the curriculum. The curriculum contains two components: Education and Careers, and Health. Following are the topics to be covered in each section:

Education and Careers:	Career Exploration Job Seeking and Job Keeping Support Networks and Resources Transferable Skills Planning for Transition to the Graduation Program
Health:	Healthy Living Health Information Healthy Relationships Health Decisions

Please note that the Health portion of the course contains some topics of a sensitive nature. This letter is to let you know that we will endeavor to accommodate any parental and student concerns about sensitive issues by asking teachers to let students know when such topics are to be discussed. Typically, a teacher will announce at the beginning of the week the topics for the week ahead. Parents are requested to let the school know if they do not wish their student to take part in class discussions; parents can then make alternate arrangements with the school to insure the learning outcomes of the course are completed.

Please note as well that the learning outcomes are available for parents to examine either online at: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/program_delivery/hcek10_topics.pdf or by contacting your Health and Career Education teacher.

Please do not hesitate to phone the school if you have further questions.

COWICHAN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Health and Career Education K to 7 is designed to help students develop skills, attitudes, and behaviours that can enhance their personal well-being and prepare them to deal with a world of complex, ongoing change. The Health and Career Education K to 7 curriculum contains the following topics:

Goals and Decisions:	Goal Setting Decision Making Support Networks
Career Development:	Personal Attributes Work and Jobs (and ways of classifying them)
Health:	Healthy Living Healthy Relationships Safety and Injury Prevention Substance Misuse Prevention

The Health component of this curriculum includes some learning outcomes that students and their parents or guardians may feel more comfortable addressing at home. The overview of the Health & Career Education K-7 topics is attached. Parents will be informed in advance of any upcoming lessons of a sensitive nature in the Health portion of this course.

Parents are requested to let the teacher know if they do not wish their student to take part in class discussions. Parents can then make alternate arrangements with the school to ensure the learning outcomes of the course are completed.

Please note as well that the learning outcomes are available for parents to examine either online at: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/program_delivery/hcek10_topics.pdf or by contacting your child's classroom teacher.

Please do not hesitate to phone the school if you have further questions.

----- please complete and leave on office counter -----

PARENT VOLUNTEERS - Please fill out and return to the school office if you are able to help out with any of the areas listed below. (Check box where you can help.)

- Magazine renewal/sales (P.A.C. fundraiser) in September
- Putting up art displays (once/twice a month) around the school
- Parent helper in classroom (please list your child's division _____)
- Coaching or managing an athletic team. Area of choice: _____
- Track Meets
- Field trip helper with division _____
- Helping with Home Ec. students (cutting material/setting up labs, etc.)
- Gifted/Talent Development Program
- Route Supervision (9:00 – 10:00 a.m.) for monthly School-Wide Runs (last Friday of each month)
- Library (especially once a month with Scholastic Book Orders)
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Other:

NAME (parent): _____

PHONE # _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____ DIVISION _____

✂-----✂



I **DO NOT** wish my child(ren) _____ to participate in the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Snack Program.

Parent Signature: _____