

# BENCH NEWS

## LITERACY STRATEGY OF THE MONTH Activate Prior Knowledge

Good readers interact with text without even realizing that they are doing it. Poor readers, on the other hand, often are unaware that this is what they are supposed to do. They read literally without bringing in prior knowledge. Reading comprehension can be affected by prior knowledge about the subject. Readers who possess rich prior knowledge about the topic of a reading often understand the reading better than classmates with low prior knowledge. It is critical that readers relate their world knowledge to the content of a text in order to make sense of what they are reading. Students use prior knowledge to make inferences about the text that they are reading. Inferences are evidence-based guesses. They are the conclusions a reader draws about the unsaid in a passage based on what is actually said by the author. Inferences drawn while reading are much like inferences drawn in everyday life. Students make inferences throughout their school day based on their peers' physical appearance, actions, speech, or based on their teachers' facial expressions, and body language. Students need to be taught how to transfer these skills and strategies to their interactions with text.

**Lead your child with questions to infer what, why, when, where or how something is happening**

(Prezler, June. 2006. [Strategies to help Readers make Meaning through Inferencing](http://www.rainbowschools.ca/virtual_library/teacher_resources/support/Making-Inferences-booklet-On-Target.pdf). Education specialist: Black Hills Region 7. <[http://www.rainbowschools.ca/virtual\\_library/teacher\\_resources/support/Making-Inferences-booklet-On-Target.pdf](http://www.rainbowschools.ca/virtual_library/teacher_resources/support/Making-Inferences-booklet-On-Target.pdf)>)



### **Upcoming Events and Programs at Kerry Park Recreation Centre**

Sunday, Feb 12 **Skate with the Islanders** - Join team members from the Islanders for a skating session from 1pm - 2:15pm.

Feb 13 **Family Day Learn to Curl** (Free) - Celebrate Family day by learning this fun sport as a family from 1pm - 3pm.

Feb 13 **Family Day Skate** (Free) - Stay active with your family by joining us for a free skating session (including rentals) from 1pm - 2:15pm.

**Girls Hockey Skills Program** - Girls will try hockey for the first time in this fun program that introduces basic hockey skills and furthers skating skills.

Wednesdays, February 15 - March 15 from 3:15pm - 4pm

Call 250 743 5922 for more information about these programs. Visit

**DATES TO LOOK FORWARD TO:**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH	JR BOYS VOLLEYBALL AT DISCOVERY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH	GR. 6/7 SKI TRIP AT MOUNT WASHINGTON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13	FAMILY DAY, NO SCHOOL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14	ART STARTS PERFORMANCE 1PM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15	JR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL AT DISCOVERY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16	AUTHOR VISIT FOR GR 5-7 AT 10 AM, SR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL AT BENCH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22	JR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL AT BENCH, FOREST DAY DIV 14+15, PINK SHIRT DAY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23	SR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL AT DISCOVERY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24	PRO- D DAY, NO SCHOOL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28	SYMPHONY FOR GRADE 4

**'Rec and Roll' Fridays at The HUB**

Fridays, 2:45 - 4:15pm (ages 6-12)

Our popular after school sports and recreation drop-in program continues in Cowichan Station. Bring your friends and join us on Fridays for fun and games. All welcome. (Free program, donations welcome)

A parent/guardian must complete a participant information form for her/his child on the first visit. We gratefully acknowledge funding support from OUR Cowichan Communities Health Network and the Province of British Columbia for the 'Rec and Roll' program.

Please feel free to email Sadie for more information.

([kids@cowichanstation.org](mailto:kids@cowichanstation.org) / <http://cowichanstation.org/>)

## Welcome the World into your Home



## Host Family Opportunities

The Cowichan Valley School District's International Student Program is looking for families who would like to host a student. We have long term and short term winter, spring and summer hosting opportunities.

**We are currently looking for home stay families for 2016-17 school year.** Criminal record checks are required for all adults (18 years old and older) residing in your home.

### To be a host family, you must:

- Be willing to provide emotional, social and academic support
- Be open to new cultural experiences
- Integrate your student into your family life and share activities together
- Have transportation and the ability to pick up students occasionally
- Provide a private bedroom with a desk, dresser and closet
- Provide healthy meals and snacks

Families are paid \$800 per month.

To find out more about our program email me at [blanglois@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:blanglois@sd79.bc.ca) or call our office at 250 746 0744 or visit our website at <http://isp.sd79.bc.ca>. Look under the HOMESTAY tab for more information or to download an application package.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Langlois  
Homestay Coordinator  
International Student Program  
SD #79 (Cowichan Valley)  
2652 James St., Duncan BC  
Canada V9L 2X2

Phone: 250-746-0744 Mobile: 250-510-1436

Please visit our website: <http://isp.sd79.bc.ca>

**Cowichan Junior Field Hockey**

Season: April 3 - June 17

Ages: 6 - 19 years

Practices: Once a week, Monday to Thursday

Game Days: Saturdays at the Cowichan Sportsplex

Contact: Denesha Doman at [jrscfha@gamil.com](mailto:jrscfha@gamil.com)

Field Hockey is a fast paced game full of speed, skill, and most of all fun!

Registration for the 2017 season closes February 15th - online at

[www.cowichanfieldhockey.ca](http://www.cowichanfieldhockey.ca)