

*The Staff of Bench Elementary
Would Like To Wish Every Member Of Our
School Community a Wonderful Holiday Season
and a Safe and Relaxing Winter Break*

*Best Wishes For a Healthy, Happy,
And Prosperous 2017*



*Happy Holidays to all,
And To All a Good Night....*

Classes recommence on Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Bench e-News

December 2016

1501 Cowichan Bay Rd.
Cowichan Bay, BC, V0R 1N2

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Principal: Mr. J. Boudreau
bensecretary@sd79.bc.ca

WINTER VACATION is from December 19th to January 2nd. See you on Tuesday, January 3rd.



- **Wednesday, December 14th, Winter Concert.** 1:00 p.m. - all odd divisions. 6:30 p.m. - all even divisions.
- **Thursday, December 15th, Winter Concert.** 1:00 p.m. - all even divisions. 6:30 p.m. - all odd divisions.
- **Thursday and Friday, December 14th and 15th.** Scholastic Book Fair in the Library 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., 2:00 - 4:00, and 5:00 - 6:16 pm.
- **Friday, December 16th (last day of school for 2016) is PJ Day.**
- **Winter Vacation December 19th to January 2nd: NO SCHOOL**
- **January 11th: 2 hour early dismissal.**

BOTTLE DRIVE

FUNDRAISER ON Thursday, Jan. 5th and 26th from 8:30 -2:00 p.m.



HAS YOUR ADDRESS, HOME OR CELL NUMBER, EMAIL OR EMERGENCY CONTACTS CHANGED

Please let Darlene in the office know if you are **not receiving weekly emails** or if any of the above has changed.

ANY ALLERGIES, MEDICAL ISSUES

Please let Darlene in the office know as soon as possible if your child has any medical issues.

GRADE 5 CAMP-IN

On Friday, December 2nd Mrs. Ingram and Mr. Low hosted a camp-in for all grade 5 students. During the evening students participated in various activities and enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner and woke up to a wonderful breakfast of pancakes and eggs! Thanks to Mrs. Ingram, Mr. Low and all parent volunteers. An awesome night was had by all!

SKATING AND BOWLING

On Thursday, December 8th, Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 participated in a skating / bowling field trip to Duncan! Students enjoyed either skating or bowling and some fun and relaxing time with friends!

FOREST SCHOOL PROGRAM

On December 3rd, Mrs. Kinsley and Mrs. Sheftel's classes went to the HUB in Cowichan Station for their 3rd Forest School Program visit. The students really enjoy this program as it gets them into nature and breathing the fresh air. Our next visit is scheduled for January 18th.

PARENTS OF GRADE 6 STUDENTS

Our "World's Finest Chocolates" fundraiser for Camp Thunderbird will continue in the New Year. Cases of chocolates are available from Mrs. Gignac for \$90.00. With each case sold \$50.00 profit goes directly to reducing the overall cost of the trip.

UPDATE ON NEW CURRICULUM

Please click the link below for an update on B.C.'s new curriculum from Education Minister Mike Bernier.

<http://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2016/12/november-29-2016-letter-from-minister-of-education.pdf>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Girls' U-9 and U-13 Indoor Lacrosse League -

Join World Cup player Naomi Wasler in this introductory 9-week program. This league does not require any equipment except a mouth guard and sticks are provided, but bring yours if you have one. This league is strictly non-contact. Free "Try it Practice" on January 5, with the 9-week program starting January 12 with a cost of \$80. For more information or to register, call Shawnigan Lake Community Centre at 250-743-1433 or visit cvrd.bc.ca.

Cowichan Valley Minor Box Lacrosse -

Registration for Girls' and Boys' Box Lacrosse (ages 5 - 21 years) takes place December - February, with drop-in sessions beginning in January. Visit www.cvtl.goalline.ca for more information and registration.

Scouting in the Cowichan Bay/Cowichan

Station Area - 1st Bench Beaver section has room for more children between the ages of 5 and 7 years for the 2016/2017 year. 1st Bench Beavers meet at The Hub-Cowichan Station

(formerly the Cowichan Station School) 2375 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station. They meet on Monday evenings from 6 to 7 pm. Effective January 1st, 2017, the registration fee for the remainder of the 2016/2017 year is reduced to \$150. That is a \$50 saving over the full year fee. Scouting is offering a new program called the Canadian Path. Programming is more youth centered, rather than Leader led, with them being involved in choosing the program as well as assisting the Scouters in the planning and reviewing of the program. For the first time, Beavers have the ability to earn badges for their accomplishments and skills.

Scouting offers two free meeting visits before registering to try out the program. For more information, please visit www.scouts.ca or contact David Vanderlinde, Group Commissioner, by email: davidvan33540@gmail.com. Come and join us at the Hub in Cowichan Station for a fun and active program, individually geared for each Beaver.

Happy Holidays!!

