



BENCH ELEMENTARY

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Hello Bench Families,

Late May and June are extremely busy and exciting times at Bench. We have numerous field trips, sporting events, the Fun Fair, and the Move-a-Thon coming up in the next few weeks. Students will be going on their Grade 7 Camping Trip and then getting ready to leave Bench for their next adventure.

Mrs. Bridge, myself and the staff are already deeply involved with our preparations for next year. We are in the process of projecting enrolment which in turn, drives staffing. There are many uncertainties this year, especially with the reconfiguration of Mill Bay Nature School. With all of these factors, the more accurate our numbers are the better job we can do. It would be much appreciated if families could keep us informed if they are planning on moving or going to another school next year so that we calculate our numbers accurately. This is particularly true for our incoming Kindergartens. If you know of anybody who has a Kindergarten-aged child, please ask them if they have registered for school and have them visit our front office.

Some families are already asking about class placement for 2024/2025. Please hold off on providing me with any information or feedback until you see the email prompting this.

Please note that for some of our activities, there are costs associated. Children are not to miss out on opportunities due to financial barriers. Please email me directly or your child's teacher if there are any financial barriers to participation and we will ensure we find a way of helping.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. It's a pleasure being part of the Bench community.

Sincerely,

Huy ch q'u!

Scott Jackson

Kyla Bridge

Bench Elementary School

1501 Cowichan Bay Road

Cowichan Bay, BC - V0R 1N2

(T) 250-743-5552

(F) 250-743-5807





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Dates to remember

- April 15, Monday - Non-instructional day (School closed)
- April 24, Wednesday - 2 hr. early dismissal
- May 3, Friday - Non-instructional day (School closed)
- May 14, Tuesday - School Track Meet
- May 15, Wednesday - 2 hr. early dismissal
- May 20, Monday - Victoria Day (School closed)
- May 24, Friday - Ready, Set, Go
- May 30, Thursday - PAC Fun Fair
- May 31, Friday - District Track & Meet
- June 27, Thursday - 1 hr. early dismissal and last day of school

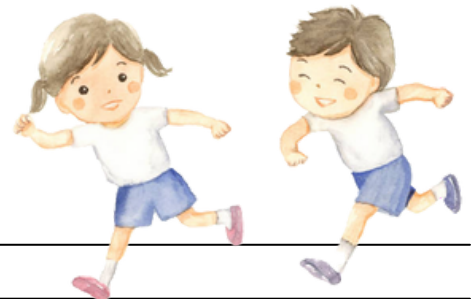
Courtyard Project

On May 3rd, Ms. McDonald and Ms. Dahl (Div. 15 and 19) attended a Pro-D workshop on tile making with the goal of having students from the art/knitting club imprint our native plants in clay with their Hul'qumi'num names attached as well to teach our students how to identify these plants. After the first 'bisque' firing of the tiles, the students will also learn how to glaze using a method of painting on and rubbing off the glaze to leaving it only in the imprinted areas to be fired again for the glaze fire. We are very excited to have this opportunity to learn Hul'qumi'num names to enhance our courtyard environment.

Bench Legacy Trail Challenge

Bench School is gearing up for an exciting week-long event called the Bench Legacy Trail Challenge. The Move-a-Thon will continue our fundraising efforts to complete a 1-kilometer trail around the school.

From June 10th to June 14th, we will challenge our student community to run the length of Vancouver Island as many times as possible on our current trail. Students will be collecting pledges in support of reaching their individual goals and helping fund the completion of our trail.



Bake Sale



Tuesday, May 28th - Chocolate, Chocolate Chip Cookies \$2.00 ea
All proceeds go to support the building of our Legacy Trail.

Bottle Drive - Upcoming Dates



April 23 **Thursdays**
June 20 **8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.**

If you have returnable items at home and cannot bring them to our bottle drive, you could still make a donation to Bench Grade 7's account at the Fisher Road bottle depot. Your help is much appreciated, thank you!



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Bottle Cap Mural Project

The Bench Bottle Cap Mural is underway. We are still collecting plastic lids and bottle caps on the blue box outside the office until May 24th. Thank you for your contribution!



Please take a moment to check our lost and found for missing items. Our lost and found is located outside the library. Items that do not get picked up by the end of the school year will be donated. Thank you!

Haircuts for Students




A member of our community who works with Bench School has offered to provide free haircuts to students for whom financial barriers might be an issue. The haircuts could be done at the school but in a discrete manner. Please email sjackson@sd79.bc.ca if this is of interest to you or you have any questions about it and we will make arrangements.



PAC - Fun Fair / Cake Decorating Contest

1. Students are encouraged to create and decorate their own cake. Kindergarten students can get some help from their parents.
2. Place the cake on a strong sheet of cardboard and cover with plastic wrap. If you send a plate there is no guarantee it will be returned.
3. Bring your cake to the staff room at the school on **Thursday morning May 30th** by 9:00 a.m. Attach the completed entry form below to a corner of the cardboard with the name hidden. **Please do NOT put the entry form UNDER the cake!**
4. Judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes (tickets to use at the Fun Fair Fun Store!!!) for the best-decorated cake in each grade. Use your imagination. Make creative designs and most importantly – HAVE FUN!!!
5. After judging takes place, the cakes will then be used for the 'Cake Walk' in the portable by the main field. Cakes won at the Cake Walk will have the winner's name put on them and can be picked up at the end of the Fun Fair.

	<p>(Entry Form to be attached to the front of the cardboard)</p> <p>Student Name: _____</p> <p>Teacher Name: _____</p> <p>Div: _____ Grade: _____</p>
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PAC - Fun Fair



Fun Fair - May 30, 2024

This event is 100% VOLUNTEER POWERED with over 150 volunteers sign up slot to fill. We ask that EVERY family please consider how they can sign up for a slot. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and high school age kids are all encouraged to join in the fun on our "Volunteer Squad".

Please sign up today at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4BA9A62DA4FB6-49340916-2024>

This is going to be an amazing event and a wonderful way to celebrate a great year together!

Event questions, please contact Fun Fair Coordinator Liz Maco: benchpactreasurer@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you all there!

Your Bench PAC Executive Team
benchpac@sd79.bc.ca

Bench Fun Fair Mystery Bags

Please help us with stocking up for one of our most popular games each year! We are asking families to please send in lunch sized paper bags filled with any clean, appropriate item(s) of your choice. Get the kid to DECORATE the bags & please seal them up when done. They can be filled with items that are all the same or different.

Ideally donate the number of bags related to the number of children you will have attend funfair

Example of contents:

- lego or tinker cars
- tiny stuffies, miniature toys
- wrapped gumballs, chewing gum or M&M packets
- marbles, nickels, stickers or skittle packets
- bubbles, glitter glue, crafty things



IMPORTANT: items must be new or only very gently used, **CLEAN** and be desirable to children. Collection bin for stuffed bags is now outside the office until **Friday, May 24th**. Thank you for your generous support of your Bench PAC & our sure to be amazing Fun Fair! benchpac@sd79.bc.ca



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PAC - Fun Fair

FUN FAIR (MAY 30TH) – PRE-SALE TICKETS



Pre-sale tickets are now available for purchase!! Purchasing your tickets in advance will assist in expediting the ticket line on the day of the Fun Fair. Beat the rush and save time by buying your tickets early! **Each ticket is priced at 50 cents.** To assist you in planning your evening, here's a breakdown of how many tickets are typically needed for the night's activities:

- Games / Inflatables – 2 to 6 tickets
- Cake Walk & Face Painting – 6 tickets
- Themed Raffle Basket – 2 tickets per entry
- Food: Snacks & drinks– 2-5 tickets / Cookout wagon (Burgers & Hotdogs) – 10-14 tickets

Orders can be placed in the Hot Lunch website. Simply log in online at <https://benchpac.hotlunches.net/> and indicate whether you would like to pick up your tickets on the night of the Fun Fair or have them sent home with your child a few days before the event. If paying by e-transfer (benchpactreasurer@gmail.com) please note **Student Name & Division.**

MANUAL ORDER FORMS - Fill out the form below. Payment by cheque (pay to Bench PAC).

DEADLINE – Friday May 24th

Don't miss out on this opportunity to save time and dive straight into the fun on the night of the Fun Fair. Thank you for your continued support in making our school events a success.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz at benchpactreasurer@gmail.com.

CONTACT NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

DIVISION #: _____

if tickets _____ x 50cents = _____

RECEIVE TICKETS BY: (circle one) PICKUP MAY 30TH SEND HOME WITH STUDENT

PAYING BY: (circle one) E-TRANSFER CASH CHEQUE



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PAC - School Supplies 2024/2025

All students have their school supplies provided to them directly in their classrooms as part of this Community Classroom School Supply initiative. This promotes equality, eliminates any supply shortage issues, and allows for re-use of supplies from year to year.

THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$35.00) will be collected from EACH CHILD between now and last day of school. Orders can be placed in the Hot Lunch website. Simply log in online at <https://benchpac.hotlunches.net/> (or sign-up if you're a new use). If paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to Bench PAC. If paying by e-transfer, please note "STUDENT NAME & DIVISION#" in the comment section and e-transfer to benchpactreasurer@gmail.com.

Please let us know if you are in a financial hardship, and unable to pay the \$35. We will ensure each child gets supplies.

If you are in a position to offer help, please consider making a contribution (select your contribution amount on the bottom portion of this form). It is our hope that the request to sponsor a kit will provide the required level of support to ensure that all students receive a kit on the first day of school.

This initiative was very successful the last three years in providing school supplies to the whole school, and we hope to achieve that again this year. Teachers have continuously commented "It is wonderful to have the same supplies for all students (including new students) as this really helps with building our class community".

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Bench PAC. If you have any questions and would like more information, please email Sanja at sanja.duggan@hotmail.com.

Please fill out the bottom of this form and return it with your payment. Thank you!

CONTACT NAME: _____	
EMAIL: _____	
STUDENT NAME: _____	
DIVISION #: _____	
SPONSOR A SCHOOL SUPPLY KIT FOR A CHILD IN NEED: <u>(circle one)</u> \$35 \$70 \$105 \$140	
PAYING BY: <u>(circle one)</u> E-TRANSFER CASH CHEQUE	



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Transportation Registration



Memo

Monday, April 29, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are implementing changes to our annual registration process beginning May 1st, 2024. Registration can be completed online beginning May 1- 31, 2023. Please read the following information carefully to ensure that you are registering your student correctly to secure ridership for the upcoming 2024/2025 school year. As per AP 560 "1.1. A parent wishing for new or changed bus services for their student for the subsequent school year must apply annually by May 31."

RE-REGISTRATION (Verification Form)

If your information is the same as 2023/2024 (Address, contacts, and school), please use this [form](#). Confirmation of information can be done via MyRide K-12.

CHANGE FORM

This [form](#) is for previously registered riders who have changes to the upcoming 2024/2025 year including change of school, contacts, or address.

NEW TO DISTRICT (Online Registration Form)

If you are new to the Cowichan Valley School District and have not been previously registered for SD79 Transportation services including all Kindergarten students, please use the online [Registration Form](#).

We will **no** longer accept **paper copy** registrations; laptops are available at the Transportation Office during the regular school year 8:30am – 4:30pm. (Computer access is also available at your student's school location.)

Summer hours will be Monday, July 15th through to Friday, August 16th, Monday – Friday 9am – 1:00pm.

NOTE: The above links will not be live until Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.

Transportation Manager,

Aaron Henry



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School Fees 2024-2025



School Fees 2024/2025

The Board of Education reviews fees for schools and academies every school year. The *School Act* section 82 permits a Board to charge a deposit for educational resources. Boards may also charge fees for materials, supplies, equipment and instruments not considered educational resource materials. Schools may charge deposits for materials given to students and provide refunds upon return.

Standard District Fees

- Graduation Fee (basic cost): up to \$75
- Student Activity Fee for Secondary Schools: \$25
Covers the costs of guest speakers, school events and activities, student recognition, student leadership, celebrations, and lockers.

Specialty/Certification Fees

Materials and equipment beyond that which is necessary to meet the required learning outcomes. i.e. woodworking: upgrading from pine to oak for a particular project. Certification fees for courses such as Food Safe and First Aid are charged at a cost recovery basis. Please contact your child's school to confirm fees/upgrade costs.

Specialty Value Added PE Courses

Fees range from \$100 to \$300 per year depending on program expenses, for example:

- Rock Climbing \$100
- Ice Hockey \$300

Please contact your child's school to confirm fees.

Academies with fees

- Cowichan Secondary School Rugby Academy Fee \$5,500 per year for local district students and out of province, and \$15,000 for International students.
- Cowichan Open School Performing Arts Academy Fee \$4,500 per year.
- Frances Kelsey Secondary School Ice Hockey Academy Fee \$1,425 per year.
- Frances Kelsey Secondary School Soccer Academy Fee \$300 per year.
- Frances Kelsey Secondary Outdoor Adventure Academy Fee \$1,100 per year.
- Frances Kelsey Secondary Equestrian Academy Fee \$3,000 per year.

Academies with no fees

- Frances Kelsey Secondary School Trails Outdoor Academy
- Frances Kelsey Secondary School Fine Arts Academy
- Frances Kelsey Secondary School Computer Studies Academy

Refundable Deposits

Refundable deposits will be collected for educational resource materials such as textbooks, reusable workbooks and novels. Refunds will be issued once students have returned the educational resource materials.

In some secondary schools the refundable textbook deposit is applied to the graduation fee unless otherwise specified by parent(s).

<u>Secondary School</u>	<u>Textbook Deposits</u>
Chemainus Secondary	\$25 (refundable)
Cowichan Secondary	\$25 (refundable)
Frances Kelsey Secondary	\$25 (refundable)
Lake Cowichan School	\$25 (refundable)
Quamichan School	\$25 (refundable)
Alternate Ed Programs	N/A
Distributed Learning K-12	\$50 (refundable)

Hardship

Where financial hardship exists that would prevent student participation in a curricular or co-curricular activity, fees will be waived. Fees and deposits will not become a barrier to participation in required activities or programs as per [Admin Procedure 506 – Financial Hardship](#).



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Homestays Needed

The Cowichan Valley School District's International Student Program has students from Europe and around the world and would like to encourage families to consider opening their home to welcome our new students to Cowichan. We have both short and long-term hosting opportunities.

Hosting an international student is an exciting, rewarding, and enriching experience that will allow Cowichan Valley families to learn about another culture and share what they know about Canada.

Our host families:

- are willing to provide emotional, social, and academic support
- are open to new cultural experiences
- integrate their student into their family life and share activities together
- have transportation and the ability to pick up their student occasionally
- provide healthy meals and snacks
- are compensated \$1000/month when hosting a student

More information: <http://www.studyincowichan.com/homestay-program/>

BE MY
HOME
AWAY FROM
HOME



HOMESTAYS NEEDED FOR HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you are an active family interested in hosting an international student from Europe and around the world contact us!

Brenda 250-510-1436 / blanglois@sd79.bc.ca



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Community Information

Cowichan Secondary Senior Field Hockey – Summer Camp



Summer Field Hockey Camp for youth players, run by the Cowichan Secondary Tbirds and their coaches. Runs July 2-5, 2024 for ages 6-14.

Kerry Park Minor Hockey Association



Summer Goalie Camp – August 19-23, 2024 at Kerry Park Arena from 8:00–3:00 daily. Each day is broken out into on ice, dryland and in classroom sessions. All ages welcome.

U11 Players – Kerry Park Minor Hockey Association has room for multiple U11 teams this year and welcomes more players and goalies in that age division. To enquire, email registrar@islanderhockey.ca.

Humble Hooves – Summer Camps

Humble Hooves focuses on strengthening connection, self-regulation, and empowerment guided by skilled educators with the help of the farm's loving animals. Summer camp options are coming up:

Youth Regulation Camp

Horse-Assisted Empowerment Camp



Humble Hooves
THE HUMAN & HORSE CONNECTION

These camps are instructed and supported by education within social work, special education, yoga, somatic movement, and certified equine facilitation.

COWICHAN RUGBY

5 NIGHTS FROM MAY 13 - JUNE 10

MONDAY NIGHT MINIS

FOR AGES 5-13 TO TRY NON-CONTACT RUGBY 6:30PM-7:30PM

REGISTER HERE:
<https://forms.gle/7fMNXyveFvKP6cEA>

\$40 DONATION TO YOUTH RUGBY:
cowichan.jr.rugby@hotmail.com

GoByBikeBC
BIKE IT. YOU'LL LOVE IT.

GOBYBIKE
JUNE 3-9, 2024

and enter to win
a Cycling Adventure
in Italy!

FREE REGISTRATION
GOBYBIKEBC.CA

SUPPORTED BY
exodus
ADVENTURE TRAVELS

30 YEARS
GoByBikeWeek



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Community Information

Small steps make MIGHTY STRIDES

Race date **SUNDAY JUNE 9**

Join BC's largest family fun run! Make mighty strides for BC's kids in Vancouver, Victoria or in your community.

REGISTER TO RUN

SUPPORT A RUNNER

BIG THINGS COME FROM SMALL STEPS

Explore Your Creativity with Neurographic Art

LEARN THE MEDITATIVE ART FORM AND CREATE YOUR OWN UNIQUE ART PIECE!

TUESDAYS
1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Check out our Facebook and Instagram to see the weekly pieces created by staff! :D

For more information please or to register please contact Cowichan Independent Living at 531 Canada Ave or Phone 250-746-3930

Moose Hide Campaign Day May 16



MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN
CAMPAIGNE MOOSE HIDE

The Moose Hide Campaign began as a BC-born Indigenous-led grassroots movement to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children. It has since grown into a nationwide movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians from local communities, First Nations, governments, schools, colleges/universities, police forces and many other organizations – all committed to taking action to end this violence.

Moose hide is a symbol of taking a stand against violence and undoing the effects of Residential Schools.

A commitment to take action in honour of women and children everywhere, and a symbol of honouring Indigenous medicine and belonging that is here to stay.

<https://education.moosehidecampaign.ca/>

International Day for Biological Diversity May 22



BE PART OF THE PLAN
International Day for Biodiversity 2024

National AccessAbility Week May 27 to May 31, 2024



National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Canadians with disabilities, as well as to promote accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of life.

<https://ccrw.org/event/national-accessability-week-2024/>



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Personal Electronics - iPhones/iPads

Please note that personal electronic devices are **NOT** permitted during school hours unless supervised by a teacher. If your child does bring an electronic device to school, it **MUST** be kept in their backpack or with the teacher during school hours. Please remember that we cannot guarantee the security of these items. If an item is confiscated by an adult during school hours or is turned in at the office for any reason, it will generally be held until the end of the day and, sometimes, will only be returned to an adult (depending on the circumstances).

Visitors

A reminder that all adults visiting the school must enter through the main doors only and sign in. Thank you for your cooperation.

Student Clothing

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each morning. Unless there are extreme weather conditions, Students will be outside every day during the 45-minute lunch break as well as an additional short break with their teachers at some point through the day.

Water Bottles

Our school has a limited supply of glasses for students to use, especially disposable ones. Families are encouraged to please send their child with a water bottle that they can refill from the fountain.

School Schedule

Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Classes begin

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Outside play

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Eating time

2:13 p.m. Dismissal

Supervision ends at 2:40 p.m.

