



BENCH ELEMENTARY

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back everyone!

Thank you to everybody, staff, students and families, for an upbeat and exciting start to the school year.

For Mrs. Bridge and I, our third year means we feel really comfortable and familiar with all of our returning families and we are so excited to welcome our new Kindergarten and new families to the community and to Bench Elementary as well. We are excited about the year to come.

As I outlined in an earlier email, our registration is up significantly, resulting in, once again, the addition of another classroom. Our school team pulled together amazingly to adapt to this change.

We needed to transform physical spaces in the building and re-do our class lists but our students moved into their new classes on Monday and now we are up and running. Of course, these classes are still considered temporary by the district until September 30th. Although unlikely, drastic changes in enrolment between now and then are possible.

There are many exciting events coming up soon, including the Terry Fox Run, our Tour de Rock stop, the kick-off of the Fall Sports season and more.

Lastly, I would really like to welcome and encourage any and all families to come in and introduce themselves if we haven't met yet.

Huy ch q'u and Welcome Back!

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

- September 20, Wednesday - PAC Meeting
- September 22, Friday - Bench Terry Fox Run
- September 25, Monday - Non-Instruction Day
- September 30, Saturday - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day
- October 2, Monday - District Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- October 3, Tuesday - Photo Day
- October 5, Thursday - 1 hr. Early Dismissal
- October 9, Monday - Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)
- October 20, Friday - Non-Instruction Day
- October 25, Wednesday - 2 hr. Early Dismissal

Indigenous Ancestry & Support

‘Uy’skweyul! Tansi!

Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at ined@sd79.bc.ca

As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used.

We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

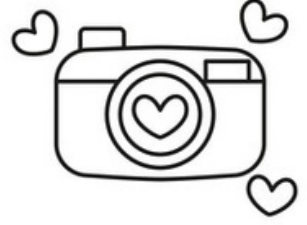


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Photo Day

Edge Imaging will be at the school on October 3rd. Photo order forms will be sent home once we receive them from Edge Imaging. All students will be photographed for school service products. Be ready to bring your smiles on picture day! Retakes are tentatively scheduled for November 7th.



Choir



Choir will be on Mondays at long recess, beginning Monday September 18th and is open to any interested students in grades 4-7.

Rehearsals will be in Mrs. MacLean's new room, across from Ms. Wilson's class.

Run Club

Run club will take place every Friday at long recess (unless there is a whole school run that morning). Runners will meet Mrs. MacLean at the front of the school to run the nine.

Don't forget your runners and comfy clothes.



Staff



We would like to welcome the following new staff to our team:

Teachers:

Rai Dahl
Ashleigh Scargall
Graham Scargall

Returning Teachers:

Petra Greenslade
Vanessa Tan

Educational Assistants:

Letitia Scott
Ben Taylor



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Childcare

Attention Out of School Care Families:

If your child(ren) are currently registered (already attending or starting by October 2) in the OSC Program at your child(ren)(s) school:

We are working on getting everyone online using the Esikidz platform. We are hoping to have the online program functional and ready for all by October 1, 2023. For this to happen, I need your help!

To be able to do this quickly and efficiently, please register your child(ren) with this link.

<https://booking.esikidz.com/?type=super&id=62616332633363392d373532632d343066612d626266302d316432633366656364643937&page=apply>

It will confirm your child(ren) are "waitlisted", I get this alert immediately and go into Esikidz manually adding everyone's schedules. Once I have done this, you will receive a "complete your registration" email from Esikidz. Yes, you will need to fill out the Registration online even though you've already done the paper version, I cannot add this information for everyone due to privacy reasons. The sooner everyone completes the online profile, the sooner we can start invoicing monthly, tracking your subsidy, changes in your schedule when needed online, and the online billing will accept Debit, Credit, Apple Pay and Google Pay.

E-transfers are still welcome to cvchildcare@sd79.bc.ca.

I am working to move away from Cash and Cheque payments. If you wish to continue paying Out of School Care fees with cash or cheque, please do NOT give the money to the OSC teachers in the program, instead, please bring the cash or cheque to me at the School Board Office at 2557 Beverly Street, I am in the office Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm and can issue you a receipt.

Families that are interested in being waitlisted for their school program, please contact me directly at cvchildcare@sd79.bc.ca

Thank you,

Kacey Milligan
Early Learning and Child Care
Administrative Assistant

(250) 748-0321 ext 320

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm





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Transportation – School Buses

Please note that starting on September 18th (Monday) all student will need their bus passes to be able to ride the school buses.

For any questions, please contact our Transportation Department:

250-748-1066

<https://sd79.bc.ca/services/transportation/>



Students may not carry anything on the school buses that is larger than a regular backpack. What this means is that your child cannot bring any of the following items on the school bus:

- Large musical instruments
- Hockey sticks (field or ice)
- Lacrosse sticks
- Baseball bats
- Skateboards
- Large school projects that will not fit on your child's lap

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all children safe.

Community Information

Duncan Terry Fox Run - Sunday, September 17, 2023



RUN DAY DETAILS

Registration: 9:00 am

Start: 10:00 am

Time Start to Close: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Evans Park, 6257 Somenos Road

Donations and/or registration: <https://run.terryfox.ca/28973>

! Our Bench Terry Fox Run will be held on September 22 at 10:30 a.m. Parents are welcome.

Community Information

Outdoor Learning – Fall Virtual Workshop Series



FREE! **TUESDAYS**
60 mins
Sept - Nov

Outdoor Learning Fall Virtual Workshop Series!

September 19
Naturally Inclusive:
Engaging Children of
All Abilities Outdoors



October 17
Connecting Children
to Nature through
Indigenous Teachings



September 26
Wild Learning:
Practical Ideas to
Bring Teaching
Outdoors



Novembre 7
L'éducation en plein air:
Apprendre et enseigner
dehors en tous lieux et en
toutes saisons



October 3
Outdoor Learning
through Patterns in
Nature



November 14
BE OUT - A New
Outdoor Learning Tool
for Teacher Success



**THE OUTDOOR
LEARNING STORE**



**TAKE ME
OUTSIDE**

OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM



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Community Information

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day
September 30, Saturday

⚠️ District Day for Truth and Reconciliation: October 2, Monday.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS MARCH

Please join us for our
3rd Annual Every Child Matters March!

Date: October 2, 2023

Time: Arrival time 9:00 am, Walk at 9:30 am

Start/End Location: Cowichan Tribes, Si'em Lelum Soccer Fields
on River Road (5574 River Rd)

Rosale, Volunteer Organizer:

Phone: (250) 701-3134

Audrey, Organizer:

Phone: (250) 732-1708

Email: ageorge@makola.bc.ca



Please wear your orange shirt, bring your drums and sing with us as we walk in memory of the children that did not make it home.

There will be:

- Guest Speakers
- Youth Show Case
- Tzinquaw Performance
- Food Trucks & Vendors





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Community Information

Tour de Rock coming to Bench Elementary

October 3 - 12:45 P.M.



2023 TOUR DE ROCK SCHEDULE

SEPT 23 PORT ALICE	SEPT 24 PORT HARDY PORT MCNEILL	SEPT 25 WOSS SAYWARD	SEPT 26 CAMPBELL RIVER	SEPT 27 COURTENAY COMOX	SEPT 28 CUMBERLAND UNION BAY QUALICUM BEACH PARKSVILLE	SEPT 29 PORT ALBERN
SEPT 30 UCLUELET	OCT 01 TOFINO NANAIMO	OCT 02 NANAIMO LADYSMITH	OCT 03 CHEMAINUS LAKE COWICHAN DUNCAN	OCT 04 SHAWNIGAN LAKE MILL BAY WESTSHORE SOOKE	OCT 05 OAK BAY VICTORIA SIDNEY	OCT 06 ESQUIMALT SAANICH VICTORIA



Canadian Mental Health Association RAINBOWS Program September & January

RAINBOWS DUNCAN & COWICHAN VALLEY

RAINBOWS

The RAINBOWS program is a free effective peer support program for children and their families; whether single-parent families, step-families or families in painful transition. The group is for children who have suffered a significant loss in their lives, either by death, divorce or any other painful transition. Groups are offered twice a year in late September and January.



To register, please contact:

**Canadian Mental Health Association
Cowichan Valley Branch**
371 Festubert Street
Duncan, BC
V9L 3T1





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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.

Parking Lot

Please follow the directional flow signage in the parking lot. Student drop-off should not be occurring in either the bus lane or the Staff Parking Lot. Please report any dangerous driving to the office. Also please encourage your children to use the crosswalk and to look both ways.

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. - 11:47 a.m. Outside play

11:47 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Eating time

2:15 p.m. Dismissal

Supervision ends at 2:40 p.m.



HAPPY FALL

