



BENCH ELEMENTARY

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Bench Families,

It certainly has been an eventful year, and the next few weeks look very busy and fun. As you can see in this newsletter, we still have many fun events to end our year on a positive note.

Our planning is well underway for next year. In May and June, a lot of staffing shuffles occur. We are very happy that Ms. Tan is returning next year into a Primary classroom and Mrs. Robertson-Heggs is returning to her role in Grade 5/6. Ms. Kurbis is returning to us after a year away, moving into a Primary classroom. We are also welcoming Mr. Miller and Mr. Alex Dodd to our school as new teachers to Bench from other schools. Sadly though, we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Greenslade and Mrs. Scargall who both accepted jobs at Maple Bay and Ms. Dahle who will certainly land an assignment somewhere. Also, we are so happy for her but so sad for us that Mrs. Urquhart is retiring and starting the next chapter in her life. We wish her the very best moving forward and thank her for her years of service to the Bench Community.

At the time of this newsletter, we don't yet know how staffing worked for our hard-working Education Assistants, but we are hoping we can retain all of them for the coming school year.

Please note the Summer Office hours below but if you have any pressing questions, you can email me at sjackson@sd79.bc.ca. After July 9th I will only be checking emails periodically but Mrs. Bridge and I will be back at work full-time on August 19th.

Have a wonderful summer vacation and we look forward to seeing you all in August/September.

Summer Office Hours:

The school office is officially open the week of July 2nd - July 5th and then again on August 26th.

Sincerely,

Huy ch q'u!

Scott Jackson
Kyla Bridge

Bench Elementary School
1501 Cowichan Bay Road
Cowichan Bay, BC - V0R 1N2

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Dates to remember

- June 27, Thursday - 1 hr. early dismissal and last day of school
- September 2, Monday - Labour Day (School closed)
- Sep 3, Tuesday - First day for class - Welcome back!
- Sep 23, Monday - Non-instructional day (School closed)
- Sep 30, Monday - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (School closed)

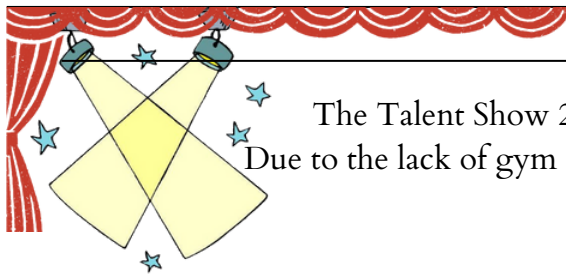
Grade 7s Farewell

Rev your engines on June 26, 2024, for the Grade 7 Farewell Drive Thru at 4 pm. We will ask parents of Grade 7 students to park along the fence line on Telegraph Road and starting promptly at 4 pm, so you may want to line up before that time. We will have you enter the school grounds, driving very slowly and waving farewell to our wonderful staff! Our fabulous teachers will be dancing and cheering you on from the sidewalk. We love it when family members and grandparents join us on the sidewalk too.



At 5 pm, Grade 7 Teachers will meet the Grade 7 Students at the Cook & Butcher for a Farewell Dinner. Grade 7 Parents can pick up their child at 7 pm. Parents may want to take advantage of the beautiful backdrop of Cowichan Bay for pictures with their families prior to the dinner.

Sincerely,
Grade 7 Teachers



Talent Show

The Talent Show 2024 will take place on Wednesday June 26th and is for students only. Due to the lack of gym space, we cannot accommodate family members for the performances.

Last Bake Sale of the Year

Tuesday, June 18th - Cookies \$2.00 ea
All proceeds go to support the building of our Legacy Trail.



Bottle Drive - Upcoming Dates

June 20 - Thursday - 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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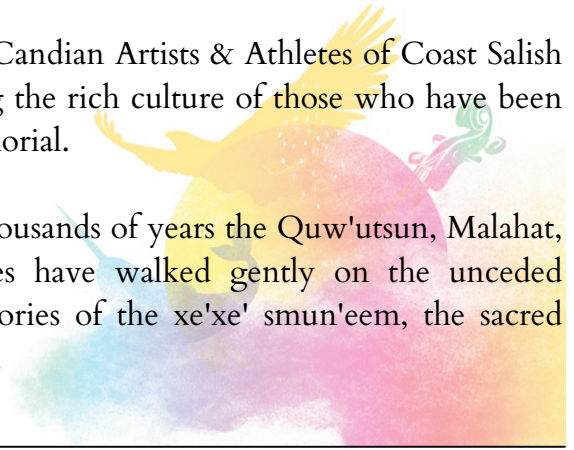
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Bench National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day will be recognized at Bench in a variety of ways.

Ms. Ayers will be leading an exploration and exhibition of different Canadian Artists & Athletes of Coast Salish Ancestry. Throughout the school, different classes will be celebrating the rich culture of those who have been the residents and stewards of this beautiful territory since time immemorial.

We try every day, but especially on this day, to remember that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, & Lyackson Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where I now work. We are committed to telling the stories of the xe'xe' smun'eem, the sacred children, that recognize the truth and are based in honour and respect.



Bench Primary Sports Day

Our Primary Sports Day 2024 will happen on Monday, June 24, 2024.

We hope that you can join your child at this annual event.

Following is a tentative schedule for the morning's activities:



- 8:45 a.m. Decorated Bike Parade(primary students and pre-school children)
- 9:00 a.m. Station Activities on the primary fields
- 10:00 a.m. Orange Break
- 10:15 a.m. More station activities
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch

All riders must wear a helmet!

We will need many parent helpers for this event to lead a group of students through the stations. Please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you!
The Primary Teachers



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!



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PAC

A HUGE **THANK YOU** to all the generous families and businesses that supported this years FUN FAIR!



**WE LOVE HOW
YOU SHOWED
UP TO SUPPORT!**



BENCH FAMILIES! Thank you for all the many ways you made the event ROCK!

- ***AMAZING** raffle basket donations
- *creation of mystery bags
- *plant sale donations
- *buying tickets for the event
- *helping clean up at the event
- *100's of HOURS of volunteering!

Special thanks to these students for your leadership and help at the pony rides!

**Adele Stephen, Mackenzie Garneau
& Alivia Malcolm**

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

- ❖ Country Grocer Cobble Hill
- ❖ Cowichan Bay Fire Hall
- ❖ Dinters Nursery
- ❖ Duncan Dodge
- ❖ Duncan Shriners
- ❖ Great Greens Farm Market
- ❖ Home Depot
- ❖ Millennial Acres Ltd/Shandelle Mathusz
- ❖ Save on Foods Duncan
- ❖ Sayward Haven Farms
- ❖ Softies Ice Cream
- ❖ Superstore Duncan
- ❖ Taco Revolution
- ❖ Thirty Food Mill Bay

Thank You!



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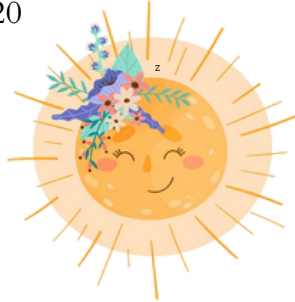
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Community Information

Father's Day
June 16



Summer Solstice
June 20



Canada Day
July 1



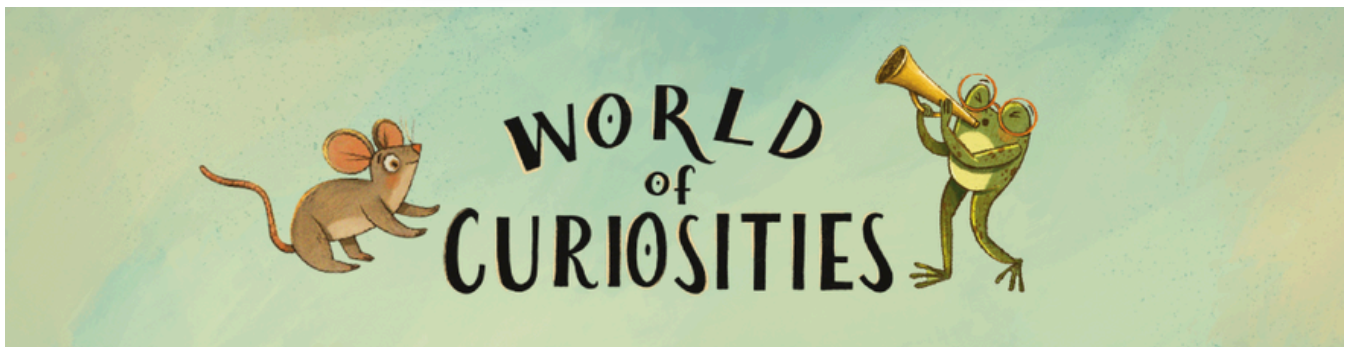
Duncan Farmers' Market
Night Market

June 20th - July 18th - August 15th



COWICHAN FOOTBALL

2024 Fall – Spring Football Registration is OPEN!
<http://cowichanfootball.com/registration/>



Attention Kids!

Explore a World of Curiosities with us for the 2024 Summer Reading Club!

The Summer Reading Club (SRC) starts on Tuesday, July 2 and runs until Tuesday, August 20.

Registration starts June 18!

More information is coming soon.



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Community Information

SHAWNIGAN KIDS' THEATRE TROUPE
PRESENTS
THE
WIZARD
OF
OZ

DIRECTED BY
PAUL BELANGER

SHOWS
THU | JUNE 13 | 6:30 PM
FRI | JUNE 14 | 6:30 PM
SAT | JUNE 15 | 2:00 PM
SUN | JUNE 16 | 2:00 PM
Doors open 30 minutes before show

TICKETS
ADULT \$20 | CHILD \$15
Available at SLCC

SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE
2804 Shawnigan Lake Rd, Shawnigan Lake BC ♦ Tel: 250.743.1433



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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

*CULTURAL
activities*

*LOCAL
vendors*

*COME
SHARE A
meal*

FRIDAY JUNE 21ST
Starts at 11 am
@ Si'em Lelum Gym
Door Prizes Being Drawn Throughout The Day!

Join us on June 21st between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm at the Si'em Lelum Soccer Fields to celebrate Quw'utsun culture and resilience. There will be vendors, cultural stations, information booths, recreational activities, snacks and food.

<https://cowichantribes.com/>



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Pride Month - Duncan Pride Parade

Happy Pride Month!!

June 1st marks the start to International Pride Month, a month to recognize 2SLGBTQ+ (Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other identities).



Recognizing Pride Month acknowledges the historical struggles 2SLGBTQ+ communities have faced and the ongoing discrimination they continue to encounter. By openly affirming the rights and dignity of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, communities foster inclusivity and create spaces where everyone can feel safe, respected, and celebrated for who they are.

As a culminating activity, please join us under the district banner at the Cowichan Pride Walk on Sunday, June 23rd which starts at 11 am at the VIU Cowichan Campus parking lot and finishes in the Duncan City Square.



South Cowichan FREE Parks Programs

Ages 3 - 5 and 6 - 11

Here's a great opportunity to share some special time outside with your little ones while meeting other families in your community. Fully-qualified facilitators will lead games, sports, crafts, and other fun activities. Themes vary every week!

Please note: this is organized activity time with a facilitator and is not a day care structure.

Parent & Tot Parks Program: Parents are required to stay at the park for the duration of the program.

Playground Program: If you do not regularly allow your child to play at the park on their own, we request that you stay at the park to supervise your child.

For more information or to register please call: Kerry Park Recreation Centre at 250.743.5922



cvrd.ca



Parent & Tot Parks Programs

Ages 3 - 5

Monday - Friday | July 2 - Aug 29

9:30 am - 11:30 am

No session July 1, Aug 5

Playground Programs

Ages 6 - 11

Monday - Friday | July 2 - Aug 29

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

No session July 1, Aug 5

Locations:

Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park

2180 Hurley Rd, Shawnigan Lake

Farnsworth Park

3640 Farnsworth Rd, Cobble Hill

Coverdale Watson Park

1880 Wilnot Rd, Cowichan Bay

Deloume Park | *July 2 - 31

2551 McClaren Rd, Mill Bay

Huckleberry Park | *Aug 1 - 29

630 Hunter Place, Mill Bay



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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.

