



## BENCH ELEMENTARY

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Welcome to October and all of the beautiful colours that it brings! As we embrace this vibrant month, we are excited to share some updates from our school community.

October has kicked off with a busy start as students settle into their new classes. We want to take a moment to say farewell to Mr. Jackson and warmly welcome Mr. Brooks as our new Vice Principal. We're thrilled to have him on board!

This month, our students have been diligently working on Literacy and Numeracy assessments, with our Grade 4 and 7 students focusing on their FSA's. We commend their hard work and perseverance. These assessments add valuable insight to your children's learning styles and preferences which help support teachers as they approach their planning for the year.

This month, we're excited to highlight several District sporting events, including Boys' Soccer, Co-Ed Field Hockey, and Cross-Country Running. Our Choir is also back in action! These activities are supported by our dedicated staff who generously volunteer their time. We believe that participation in extracurricular activities strengthens students' connections to school, and it's fantastic to see so many getting involved.

Please keep an eye out for information from the PAC, who play a vital role in supporting our school initiatives. We are particularly looking forward to the Bench Bootacular Dance on October 24th, which promises to be a fantastic event with your support. Additionally, be sure to stop by the front of the school for the PAC Coffee Chats. Next chat is Friday October 11th.

As we close our October newsletter, I want to extend my thanks to all of you for your ongoing support and words of encouragement through our recent transitions. Together, we are building a strong and vibrant school community. Let's keep working together to make this month a great one!

Enjoy the beautiful fall days ahead!

Warm regards,

Kyla Bridge  
Principal

**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

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- October 14, Monday - Thanksgiving (School Closed)
- October 23, Wednesday - 2 hr. Early Dismissal
- October 25, Friday - Pro D Day (School Closed)
- November 8, Friday - Remembrance Day Recognition at School
- November 11, Monday - Remembrance Day (School Closed)
- November 20, Wednesday - 2 hr. Early Dismissal
- November 22, Friday - Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)

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### Mr. Brooks Message

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I am so excited to be joining the Bench school community. I can already see how grateful, I am to be a part of this community by how welcoming the children, staff, and parents have been. I look forward to working with you all to create an amazing environment for these precious children.

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### Photo Day

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**S M I L E !**

Edge Imaging will be at the school on November 5th for our photo retakes.

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### Cross Country

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Cross country running is taking place Fridays during long recess. The district race will take place at Evans Park on Thursday October 24th from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Notices have been sent home this week, for students who wish to participate in the race.

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### Choir

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Choir is up and running with weekly rehearsals on Tuesdays during long recess. A notice is being sent home this week for parents who wish to buy their child a choir t-shirt. If your child already has one, please disregard the notice.

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### Kindness Pies - Div. 12

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Thanks to some of our helpful parent volunteers who joined our class to make Friendship Pie. We filled the pies with kindness: patience, caring, sharing, helping, listening, friendship... and many apples! We appreciated very much the families who picked apples off their trees to share with the class. We made 7 Kindness Pies!



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## Bake Sale



The first of our monthly bake sales will be on Tuesday, October 22nd. Cookies will be \$2.00. The money will go towards enhancing features for our legacy trail.

## Fundraising



Our students in Grades 4-6 will be going to Camp Imadene in June and we are selling vegetable bundles to help pay for it. If you are interested in purchasing vegetables, please note that the forms are due Wednesday, October 16 (no late orders) - \$25 for a delicious bundle of healthy, fresh BC produce. You can purchase for your own family or to donate to a family in need.

Thank you for your support!

## Grade 6 Immunization

In B.C., routine immunizations are recommended for children at kindergarten entry (4-6 years of age). If your child has not received their kindergarten immunizations, please contact your local Public Health unit to book an appointment at 250-709-3050\*.

For more information about immunization, please go to <https://immunizebc.ca/> or contact your local Public Health unit if you have any questions.

\*Students in grade 6 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics with the consent of a parent/guardian/representative.



## Upcoming Sport Events

### Junior Boys Soccer

October 17, Thursday, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Sherman Park



### Senior Boys Soccer

October 18, Friday, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Sherman Park

### Co-Ed Girls Field Hockey

October 21, Monday, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Cowichan Sportsplex (Chesterfield tracks)



### District Cross Country

October 24, Thursday, 9:30 - 11:00 AM  
Evans Park



### Black and Orange Whole School Run

October 31, Thursday, 10:30 AM

**\*Remember to wear orange and black\***



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## PAC

**the bench bootacular**

**Free Admission**

**TICKETS .50 EACH**

**Oct. 24th**  
5:30pm - 8pm

**Our Family Friendly Halloween Dance**  
FAMILY FRIENDLY COSTUMES PLEASE!! NO GRUESOME OR SCARY MASKS/COSTUMES! THE LITTLE ONES ARE HERE FOR THE FUN TOO!  
**Parents MUST accompany their children to the dance. This is NOT a staff supervised event!**

<b>Tickets</b>		<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
4	Games	<b>HERE!</b>
5	Cookie Station	
12	Meal Deal (slice of pizza, drink, and chips)	
8	Slice of pizza	
3	Chips	
3	Bubly	
2	Water, Juice box	
2	Baked treat	

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4BA9A62DA4FB6-51682699-bench>

Thank you for your support!  
-Bench PAC

### PAC Halloween Calendar

Oct 24

Halloween Dance, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Oct 22-31

Halloween Guessing Game

If you can volunteer, please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4BA9A62DA4FB6-51682699-bench/>

Oct 31

Pumpkin carving contest  
Classroom door decorating contest





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## We Are Hiring!



**COWICHAN VALLEY**  
School District

**WE'RE Hiring**

**School Bus Drivers**

We are currently accepting applications for On-Call School Bus Drivers. Our drivers play an integral role in the day of our students. This is a great opportunity to work early mornings and afternoons getting students safely to and from school.

**Hourly wage of \$32.47**

If interested, please email your resume to: [apply@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:apply@sd79.bc.ca) or drop off at the School Board Office: 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan.

**Qualifications:**

- Grade 12 Diploma or equivalent
- Class 1 or 2 Driver's License with Air Brake endorsement
- Clean Driver's Abstract
- Demonstrated interpersonal and communication skills



**COWICHAN VALLEY**  
School District

**WE'RE Hiring**

**On-Call Casual Education Assistant**

We are currently accepting applications for On-Call Casual Education Assistants. EA work is a great way to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students throughout the district.

**Qualifications**

- Completion of a college-recognized program of studies (Child and Youth Behaviour Focused) of 1 academic year
- Practicum or work experience program related to Child and Youth Behaviour

**Hourly wage of \$33.24**

If interested, please email your resume to: Human Resources, Support Staff at [apply@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:apply@sd79.bc.ca) or drop off at the School Board Office: 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan.

For more information visit [www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)

## Community Information



**Thanksgiving**  
October 14



**World Kindness Day**  
October 14



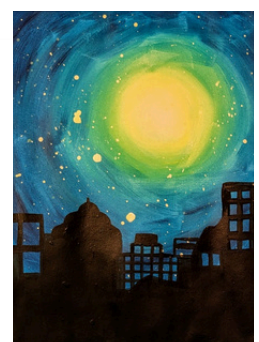
**Remembrance Day**  
**November 11**

10:00 AM - 12:35 PM  
Cenotaph Cobble Hill



**Driftwood Studio Artist**  
Art Classes for children aged 8-12.  
  
Experienced or beginner artists,  
self guided or seeking inspiration.

<https://www.driftwoodstudioartists.ca/>



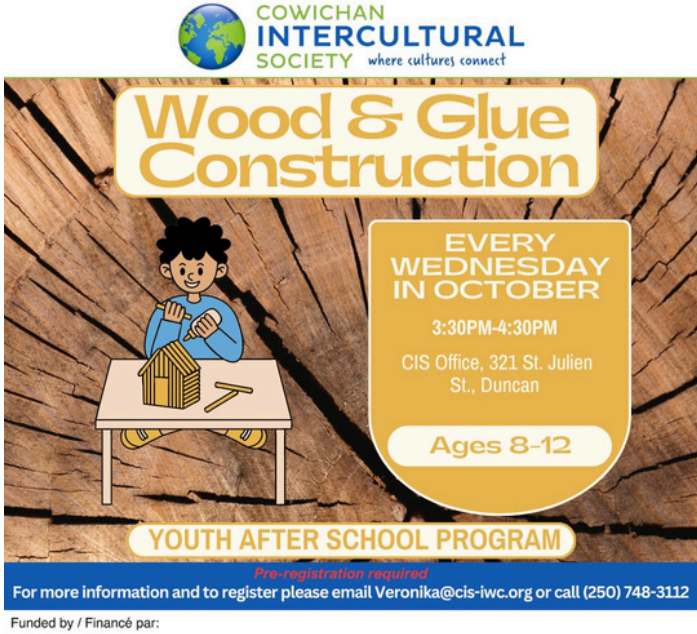




# BENCH ELEMENTARY

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## Community Information



**COWICHAN INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY** where cultures connect

# Wood & Glue Construction

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER

3:30PM-4:30PM

CIS Office, 321 St. Julien St., Duncan

**Ages 8-12**

**YOUTH AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

*Pre-registration required*

For more information and to register please email [Veronika@cis-iwc.org](mailto:Veronika@cis-iwc.org) or call (250) 748-3112

Funded by / Financé par:



**COWICHAN INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY** where cultures connect

**CVRDREC**

ALL AGES

# CULTURAL CONNECTIONS ACTIVITY NIGHT

Friday Oct 25

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Free

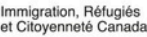


CCC - MULTI PURPOSE HALL

Join us for an exciting evening of cultural activities with games, music, crafts, and demonstrations, including origami, calligraphy, henna, face painting, dancing, and more!

*Pre-registration required*

For more information and to register please email [Veronika@cis-iwc.org](mailto:Veronika@cis-iwc.org) or call (250) 748-3112

Funded by / Financé par:

 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
 
 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**


 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
 
 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**


🔧🌟 This October, join our Youth After School Program for some fun wood & glue construction sessions! 🪵🔪 Every Wednesday from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, for kids ages 8-12. Pre-registration is required, and eligibility restrictions apply.

📍 Location: CIS Office, 321 St. Julien St., Duncan  
For more info or to register, contact [veronika@cis-iwc.org](mailto:veronika@cis-iwc.org).

🎉 Join us for a Fun-Filled Cultural Evening! 🎶🎭

Come enjoy an exciting evening of games, music, crafts, and demos as the Cowichan Intercultural Society partners with the Cowichan Community Centre! This is a great chance to meet new people and try out fun activities like origami, Chinese calligraphy, henna, face painting, cultural music & dancing, sports, and more! 🌍



11 FUN NIGHTS • TRAIN RUNS EVERY 1/2 HOUR • FIRST TRAIN AT 4PM

OCT. 18-22, 25-30, 2024

3:30 PM - 9:00 PM

**BC FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE HALLOWEEN TRAIN**

**BC FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE**

100 Acres of Discovery, Education and Fun.  
[WWW.BCFORSTDISCOVERYCENTRE.COM](http://WWW.BCFORSTDISCOVERYCENTRE.COM)  
2892 DRINKWATER ROAD, DUNCAN (ON THE TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY)

ADMISSION  
\$18 Adults / Seniors (65yrs+)  
Youth (13-18yrs)  
\$16 Children (3-12yrs)  
Children 2yrs and under - FREE

TICKET SALES ONLINE ONLY  
Visit BCFC website for more details.



SAT OCT 26 IN CHEMAINUS WATERWHEEL PARK 11-3PM

# CHEMAINUS FALL FEST

CORNHOLE SHOWDOWN • PIE CONTESTS • SPOT PRIZES  
KIDZONE • TRICK OR TREAT • MUSEUM HALLOWEEN HAUNTING

FREE RAFFLE DRAWING

CHARITY & CHILI COOK-OFF

HELP US RAISE FUNDS  
CHILI TASTER \$2  
CHILI BOWL \$4  
All proceeds to **Harvest House**

VISITCHEMAINUS.CA



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## Personal Electronics - iPhones/iPads

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Please note that use of personal electronic devices are **NOT** permitted on school property 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).

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## Visitors

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

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## Parking Lot

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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.

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## Student Clothing

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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.

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## Water Bottles

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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.

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## School Schedule

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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.

