



BENCH ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember

March 17 to 28, Monday to Friday - Spring Break (School Closed)

March 31, Monday - First day of school after Spring Break

April 3, Thursday - 1 hr. Early Dismissal

April 14, Monday - Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)

April 18, Friday - Good Friday (School Closed)

April 21, Monday - Easter Monday (School Closed)

April 23, Wednesday - 2 hr. Early Dismissal

School Pizza Sales

The online school sales for the weekly pizza by the slice for the period of April 10 - June 19, 2025 start on Friday, March 28th. All you need to do is choose your pizza, and then select the number of slices per week (1 piece - \$33, 2 pieces - \$66, 3 pieces - \$99).

Online orders must be placed by FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025, 3:00 pm. For the first week back to school after the Spring Break, we will be doing cash sales only. Please place your order with grade 7 students in the pod before school by April 9th (Wednesday) for the pizza that will be served on April 10th (Thursday).

If you miss the deadline for online orders, cash sales are available Wednesday mornings before school in the back pod area.

Unfortunately no late orders or refunds can be issued.

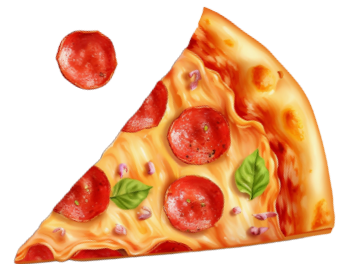
To set up an account and explore the system, please follow the instructions below.

Register Online:

Step 1: Please click on this link: <https://sd79.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, select the "click here" option, login in and add each of your children to your household account.



Bake Sale

April 8th - May 13th
Tuesdays

\$2.00 per cookie



The money will go towards enhancing features for our legacy trail.



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Grade 7 Parent Night

Grade 7 parents are invited to attend the 'Grade 7 Parent Evening' at Frances Kelsey School on April 9th at 7:00 pm in the Theatre to learn about what next year will look like for their future Grade 8 students.

Jump Rope for the Heart

On April 7th we kick off our fundraising week for Jump Rope for Heart!



This event teaches our students the importance of giving back and encourages them to learn healthy habits, so they understand the importance of staying active, eating well and taking care of their heart and brain health. We aim to create an inclusive and positive environment where students of all ages and abilities feel welcomed and excited to get their bodies moving and hearts pumping in support of a great cause.

Throughout the week, the students will be encouraged to bring donations to their classroom. The class with the highest fundraising total will win a class set of skipping ropes and each donation will earn the student entry into a draw for prizes donated by the Heart and Stroke Association.

The funds our school raises will help support important heart and brain research funded by Heart & Stroke. Let's work together as a school community and show how generous we can be! Our Jump Rope for Heart event date is scheduled for Friday, April 11th.

Robotics Regional

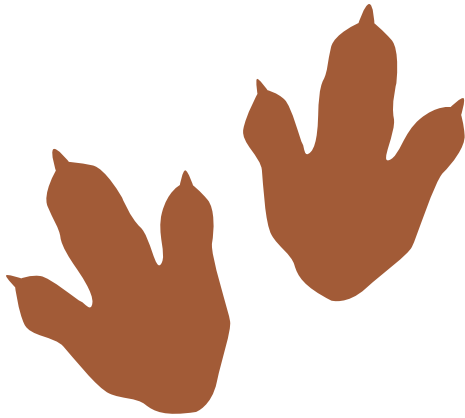
Sumo robots are small, autonomous machines designed to compete in sumo wrestling matches. These robots use sensors and programming to detect their opponents and attempt to push them out of a designated ring. The competition is a thrilling blend of engineering, strategy, and robotics.

GearBots are programmable, lightweight robotic devices used in educational competitions to help students develop engineering and problem-solving skills. Students work in teams to build and program these autonomous robots to complete various themed mission. The challenge encourages creativity, teamwork, and the application of computational thinking

Recently, at the Skills Canada Regionals competition, 20 students attended a sumo and gear robot event and had an amazing time, showcasing their creativity and technical skills. The excitement was palpable as students from Bench Elementary excelled, securing gold, silver, and bronze medals in the competition. This makes them eligible to compete in April's Skills Canada Provincial competition. The robotics team's achievements highlighted the school's dedication to fostering innovation and teamwork among young learners.

Who's Ready to Stomp into Kindergarten?

You are invited to attend the Bench Elementary Welcome to Kindergarten event!



For: Children registered to attend Bench Elementary Kindergarten in September 2025

When: Friday, May 23 12:30-2:00 pm

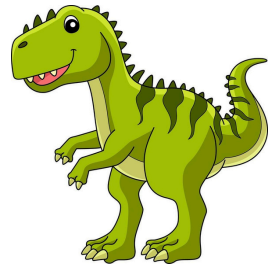
Where: Bench Elementary School. Please arrive at the outside doors of the Kindergarten classrooms. Just follow the signs!

Why/How: Drop in anytime within this time frame.

Families can meet the kindergarten teachers, go on a Story Walk, try out some fun play-based activities, and take a tour of the school!

We look forward to meeting you!

Mrs. Boechler and Mrs. Nielsen



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Bench Elementary's Annual

FUN FAIR

is Wednesday, June 4!

5-8pm

**TICKETS
50¢**

Games, Inflatables, Fun Store,
Plant Sale, Raffle Baskets, Cake Walk,
Face Painting
Food Trucks, Cotton Candy
And MORE!



FREE ENTRY
FAMILY FUN

JOIN US!

Parent run event ~ Supervision required

**ACTIVITIES
2-6
TICKETS
EACH**





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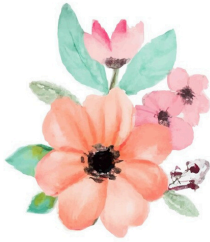
Spring Forward
March 9

Earth Hour

March 22, 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm



Spring
March 20



**International Transgender
Day of Visibility**
March 31



Vancouver Island Regional Library

Ha'wa'lum'tul Kids Book Club

Cowichan (Duncan) Branch - 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 3:00 - 4:00 pm, for kids 8-12. Parent attendance is optional.

We give you a monthly theme and you pick which book you read that month - for book discussions, themed crafts and activities. Ha'wa'lum'tul means playing together and was suggested by local Quw'utsun elder Ron Alphonse.

Other VIRL events can be found at <https://virl.bc.ca/>



FORED BC Society - Video, Art & Photo Contest for Indigenous Youth

To celebrate the rich culture and heritage of Canada's Indigenous peoples and those in the Pacific Northwest (United States) subject to funding, FORED sponsors an annual art, photography & video contest. Theme is Indigenous Traditional Knowledge & Medicine with \$150 cash prizes for Indigenous youth winners.

Deadline: May 23, 2025.

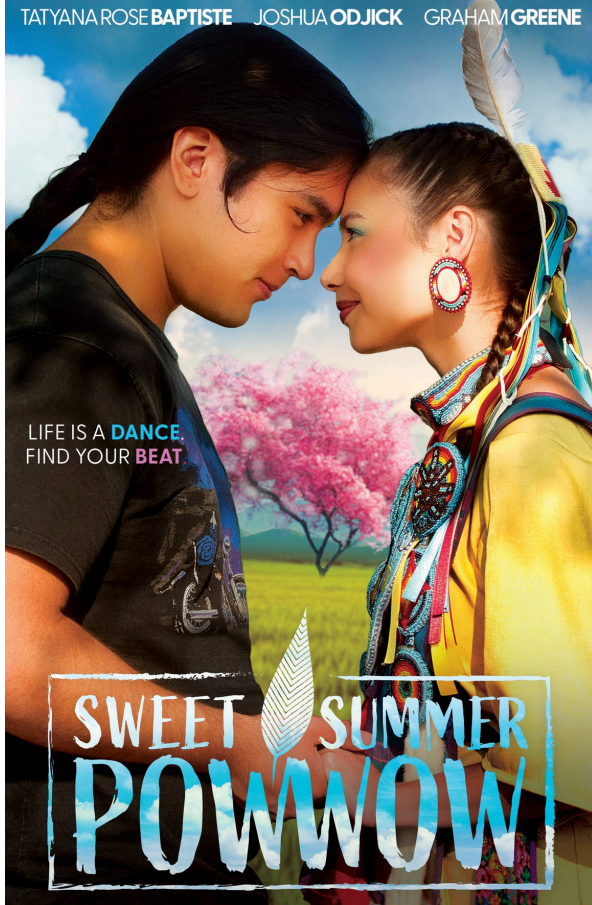
For more information visit: <https://www.foredbc.org/>



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TATYANA ROSE BAPTISTE JOSHUA ODJICK GRAHAM GREENE

March 9, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Regular price: \$16

<https://cowichanpac.ca/>



COWICHAN
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTRE

Rated PG

Sweet Summer Pow Wow is a Canadian romantic drama film, directed by Darrell Dennis and released in 2025. The film stars Joshua Odjick and Tatyana Rose Baptiste as Riley and Jinny, a pair of Indigenous Canadian young adults who meet and fall in love on the summer pow wow circuit, and try to build a relationship amid the challenges in their lives that threaten to keep them apart.

The film was shot in summer 2023, principally around Duncan, British Columbia.

The film premiered at the 2025 Victoria Film Festival, where it was the winner of the Audience Favourite Feature award.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_Summer_Pow_Wow





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Dear Bench Families,

As we step into March, we look forward to the promise of spring and the well-deserved break that comes with it. Student Learning Updates for Trimester 2 will be come home on March 14th.

This past month has been filled with incredible student achievements and activities. From the volleyball and Robotics District Competition to Chess Tournament, and students attending the symphony, our students have been engaged in a wide variety of enriching experiences. A special thank you to our dedicated staff for volunteering their time to make these opportunities possible!

With spring on the horizon, we are gearing up for **Track and Field, Girls Soccer, Co-Ed Rugby**, and more. We continue to be amazed by our students' enthusiasm and participation in these programs. Please encourage your child to listen to daily announcements and check the calendar outside the office to stay informed about upcoming events.

Students have been working very hard since the beginning of the year on their literacy skills, and this is one of our school goals this year. At Bench, we have a protected block of time in the morning and in the afternoon where teachers and students **do not have any interruptions** to their learning. During this time, teachers are providing direct, targeted and explicit reading interventions to students in grades 1-5. Depending on age, grade and ability students are working on phonics skills, oral reading fluency and other literacy related skills designed to improve student achievement. The students and teachers have been working VERY hard, and we are seeing AMAZING results! We want to encourage parents to read with your child(ren) daily so we can keep going on our upward trend of success. It feels so good to make such a difference. Thank you for joining us on this learning journey!

On behalf of the entire Bench staff, we wish you all a restful and refreshing Spring Break. We will be excited to welcome students back to school on **March 31st**.

Enjoy your Spring Break!

Huy ch q'u!

Sincerely,

Kyla Bridge & Steven Brooks

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Personal Electronics – iPhones/iPads

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).

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. – 11:47 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.

