



BENCH ELEMENTARY

LIIMUS (APRIL) 2025 NEWSLETTER

Spring is in full bloom at Bench Elementary, and with it has come a wonderful wave of energy, achievement, and connection across our school community.

Students have been shining in a variety of ways—from intellectual pursuits to athletic accomplishments. Our chess team represented us proudly at the District Chess Tournament, showing great focus and strategic thinking. Meanwhile, grade 6/7 students are planning to compete at the Provincial Skills Competition and participate in the Try a Trade program. On the field, the Girls Soccer team is ramping up and Track and Field meet will be in May.

Students are growing in their reading comprehension, writing fluency, and mathematical reasoning, thanks to their hard work and the support of our dedicated staff. Beyond academics and athletics, spring has also brought a boost of fun to our lunch hours. Our playground and fields have come alive with a friendly tug of war tournament, you can find the younger students skipping, playing hopscotch, gaga ball and lively basketball games, coupled with exciting rounds of street hockey, soccer and Friday dance parties. These moments of joy and play have helped foster a strong sense of school spirit and belonging.

As we move into the final stretch of the school year, we're proud of all that our students have accomplished and grateful for the support of families, staff, and the wider community who help make our school such a dynamic place to learn and grow.

Huy tseep q'u!

Sincerely,

Kyla Bridge & Steven Brooks

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

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Dates to Remember

- April 14, Monday - Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)
- April 17, Thursday - Whole School Run, 1:00 - 1:30 pm
- April 18-22, Friday to Tuesday - Bench is an early voting station
- April 18, Friday - Good Friday (School Closed)
- April 21, Monday - Easter Monday (School Closed)
- April 22, Tuesday - Earth day celebration & PAC is helping us celebrate with Free Popcorn for everyone!
- April 23, Wednesday - 2 hr. early dismissal
- April 29, Tuesday - Vision screening for grades 1, 3, 5 and 7
- April 30 - Art Starts Performance sponsored by the PAC
- May 2, Friday - Pro-D Day (School Closed)
- May 5-9, Monday to Friday - Book Fair Week (family shopping every day from 2:00 - 3:00 pm)
- May 8, Thursday - Grade 6 Immunizations
- May 14, Wednesday - 2 hr. early dismissal + Art Starts Performance sponsored by the PAC + Paint Day with Ms. Tan (more information to come)
- May 16, Friday - Bench Field Day (all grade 4-7 participate in the 100 m at Bench School)
- May 19, Monday - Victoria Day (School Closed)
- May 22 - Bench Track and Field Day
- May 23 - Welcome to Kindergarten Event

Transportation Registration 2025/2026

It's that time of year already!!!

Detailed information on registration and changes to bus passes in the memo attached. Please note that the links on the memo aren't live yet.



Student Learning Survey



The 2024/25 Student Learning Surveys are available online until May 2, 2025 for students/parents in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, and all staff in BC public schools.

Parents please consider taking this voluntary Satisfaction Survey to provide feedback to your child's school. It will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

<https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>

Bake Sale

May 13th - June 13th, Tuesdays
\$2.00 per cookie



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



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Homestays Needed



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

Dear Bench Families,

Are you excited about the idea of welcoming a high school student from another part of the world into your home? Becoming a host family is a unique opportunity to share Canadian culture, form lifelong connections, and play a crucial role in a young person's educational journey in our community.

Our high school aged international students are eager to experience life in Canada. As a host, you'll provide a safe, supportive, and caring environment to help them thrive.

Families of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply—and hosts receive support and compensation to ensure a successful experience for everyone involved!

We are actively recruiting host families for the upcoming fall semester (September 2025)! Now is the perfect time to apply and prepare to welcome a student into your home.

Join us in creating unforgettable memories and making a difference in a student's life.

Apply today and make a difference! For more information, contact blanglois@sd79.bc.ca or apply here: <https://www.studyincowichan.com/homestay-program/>

Community Information



April is Autism Awareness Month

World Autism Awareness Day is on April 2



Easter Weekend

April 18-21



Earth Day

April 22

School Principal's Day

May 1



Red Dress Day

May 5



**MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN
CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE**



Mother's Day

May 11

Moose Hide Campaign Day

May 15



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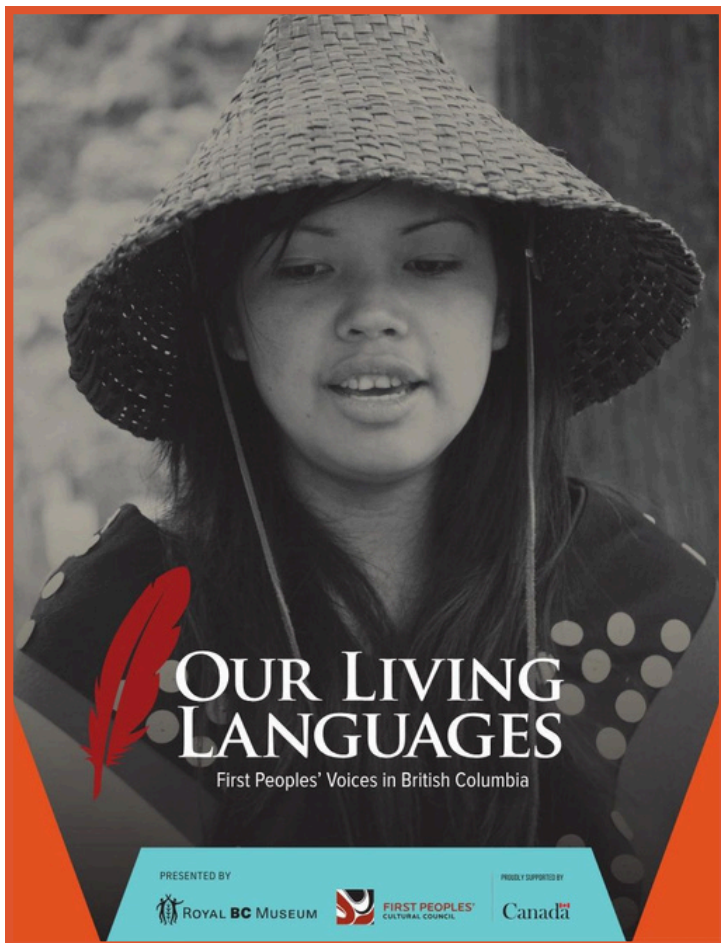


National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S), also known as Red Dress Day - May 5, 2025: This day honours and remembers missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people. Red dresses and clothing can be worn or displayed to recognize the day.

The Moose Hide Campaign is a symbol of taking a stand against violence and undoing the effects of Residential Schools. It began as a BC-born Indigenous-led grassroots movement to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children.



MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN
CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE



Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC

On now at
Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives



January 29 – April 29, 2025, All day
Admission by donation



Mental Health Week 2025

This May 5–11, we're encouraging people across Canada to look beyond the surface and see the whole person. By embracing honesty and vulnerability, we open the door to deeper connections and the mental health benefits that come with it. In doing so, we can create a ripple effect of courage and understanding across the country.

<https://cmha.ca/mental-health-week/>



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COWICHAN SPRING CARNIVAL
APRIL 17 - 20, 2025

PRE-SALES AVAILABLE SOON!
Early Bird Wristbands will be available from the Cowichan Exhibition Office and the WCA website soon!

EST 1868
COWICHAN EXHIBITION 7380 TCH. North Cowichan, BC. V9L6B1
250.748.0822 . www.cowex.ca EST 1868



FREE!

4th ANNUAL SPORT & RECREATION FAIR
SATURDAY, MAY 3rd 11AM - 3PM

at COWICHAN SPORTSPLEX

- ★ Hands-on opportunities to try various locally offered sports and activities
- ★ Personally meet the organizers and register for the summer calendar
- ★ Totally FREE for sport organizers and participants
- ★ A fun outdoor festival like environment
- ★ Prizes, food trucks, mascots and more...

BOOM!

COWICHAN SPORTSPLEX CVRD MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH Cowichan

For more information please call 250-746-5666 or e-mail ed@cowichansportsplex.com



COWICHAN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO

SATURDAY May 3, 2025 • 10am to 2pm

Transfer Beach • Ladysmith

FREE, FUN FAMILY EVENT!

- Make a family emergency plan
- Win a FREE emergency generator
- Meet emergency responders

EMC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COWICHAN

CVRD MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH Cowichan DUNCAN



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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.



Happy Mother's Day

May 11, 2025