



BENCH ELEMENTARY

YUQW'IQW'U'LUS (JUNE) 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Bench Families,

What a year it has been! From exciting learning moments to fun school-wide events, it's been a full and memorable journey this year. As we head into June, the energy around the school is high, and we're looking forward to a busy and joyful end to the year. A big thank you to the PAC and Fun Fair committee for an amazing time at the Fun Fair and thank you to everyone who attended and participated in this much anticipated event. It was a BLAST! Be sure to check out the June details in this newsletter—there's lots still to come as we wrap up on a positive note.

Planning for next year is already underway. As always, May and June bring staffing changes, and this year is no exception. We're excited to share that **Ms. Tan will be returning** to an intermediate classroom this year and sharing spaces with Mrs. Merrick in the Pod. We're also happy to welcome back **Ms. Kurbis** and she will be joining Mrs. Dougan again in a Primary classroom. Welcome to Nicole Jantz who will be helping with non contact time.

Ms. Jennaya will be joining the QSS team as an EA and Mrs. Gail Caverly will be leaving Bench to work at Frances Kelsey and we wanted to thank her for her many years of service at Bench.

Summer Office Hours:

The office will be closed as of Friday June 27th opening again on August 25th.

School Start Up:

School begins on **Tuesday September 2, 2025** for the Grade 1-7's. Students will return to their last year's teacher for the first day of school. The following day, Wednesday, students will be organized into community grade groupings and placed with teachers who teach the grade that they will be in to start to foster relationships with new students and adults in that grade until class placements are officially set on September 30th. Teachers have been busily planning and preparing lessons, assessments, and community building activities for these groups.

Kindergarten families will receive a separate communication outlining the gradual entry schedule for new students and they will begin on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**.

This is my final newsletter as Principal of Bench Elementary. It has been an honour to work alongside your children and connect with so many of you. Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership over the last 4 years. It has been my pleasure to serve the Bench community as a teacher and administrator.

Wishing you all a restful and sunny summer break—you'll be hearing from Principal Mike Martin in September. All the best to each of you!

Huy ch q'u!
Warm regards,

Kyla Bridge
Principal

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BENCH ELEMENTARY

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Dates to remember

- June 17, Tuesday - Free Popcorn Day for the whole school
June 18, Wednesday - Primary Sports Day
June 19, Thursday - Whole School Rainbow Run
June 25, Wednesday - Bench Talent Show + Grade 7s Year End Celebration
June 26, Thursday - Last day of school + 2 hr. Early Dismissal
September 1, Monday - Labour Day (School Closed)
September 2, Tuesday - First day of school

Grade 7s Farewell



We would like to recognize our Grade 7's as they prepare to leave elementary school and take their next big step to their new schools. On Wednesday June 25 we will cheer them on at 4:00 as they drive through the bus lane, enjoy photo's at Hecate Park with family and friends and enjoy dinner at The Cook n' Butcher at 5:00. We are so proud of their leadership, hard work and accomplishments and wish them all the best in their upcoming endeavours.

Bench National Indigenous Peoples Day

In June we recognize the National Indigenous Peoples Day across Canada.

At our school, we are working on creating spotlight posters on Indigenous artists and athletes of Coast Salish ancestry from British Columbia. These posters will be displayed around the school later this month.

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 we now work and live.



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.

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who bought drinks from Div. 7's Lemonade Fundraiser! We sent \$483 to the BC Cancer Society's research in Victoria.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to help supervise on the Camp Imadene trips.
We can't do these fun experiences without you!



BENCH ELEMENTARY

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Primary Sports Day

Primary Sports Day – Wednesday June 18th

The focus of our Primary Sports Day is on fun and sportsmanship. We hope that you can join your child at this annual event.

We will begin with the Bike Parade for the primary students and pre-school children. All riders must have a helmet. Decorated bikes should be dropped off at the side of the gym by the mural before 8:30 am. There will be signs for each grade group along the wall. Parents of pre-school bike riders will need to accompany their children. The Bike Parade will be in the 'staff' parking lot to the right of the front entrance beginning with the pre-school children.

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

All students report to classes as usual.

8:45 a.m. – Decorated Bike Parade. All primary students and pre-school children can show off their decorated bikes in the front parking lot.

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

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

Thank you!
The Primary Teachers



Talent Show

The Talent Show 2025 will take place on Wednesday June 25th and is for students only. Due to the lack of gym space, we cannot accommodate family members for the performances.

Lost and Found

Please take a moment to check our lost and found for missing items. Some clothes are hanging outside the front door and more can be found 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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Adopt a Fish

ADOPT A FISH

Bench Elementary is looking for loving families to adopt our fish!

 Neon Tetras and Rainbow Sharks make great community fish. Add them to any docile tank for a pop of fun colour! We have 3 tetras and one shark available.

 Convict Parrotfish are a favourite to watch! They can be aggressive and territorial, so are best suited in their own tank. We have 10 parrotfish available. They can be housed together.

Please email Ms. Frissell at bfrissell@sd79.bc.ca if you have a tank at home that would like some new friends!

Community Information



Summer Solstice
June 20



National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 21

Canada Day
July 1



Summer Vacation
June 27 - September 1



BENCH ELEMENTARY

YUQW'IQW'U'LUS (JUNE) 2025 NEWSLETTER

Community Information



Summer Reading @ Vancouver Island Regional Library

Summer vacation is almost here and your children are no doubt dreaming about fun times and adventures! But in order to keep your children's reading skills sharp, it's also a smart idea to include reading as a part of their summer fun.

Like all skills, a little practice goes a long way. Vancouver Island Regional Library invites kids aged 0 - 12 years to join Summer Reading Club. Participants will embark on a reading adventure at the library with this year's theme: **Colour Your Summer!** Summer Reading Club encourages children to read a little every day by providing:

- Fun tools, such as colorful reading records, tattoos, and medals.
- Trading cards – get additional cards throughout the summer to trade with friends!
- Chances to win cool prizes — the more they read, the more chances to win.
- Amazing in branch library programs, performances, contests and activities.

Summer Reading Club officially begins **July 2nd**. You can register by picking up a special package at your local branch starting on **June 16th**! The package includes a reading record to track reading, stickers and other fun stuff.

For more information, call or visit your local branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library or visit www.virl.bc.ca/src. In remote areas, the program is available through our Books by Mail service. Please call 1-877-415-8475 for information.

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Join us for a day of celebration NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



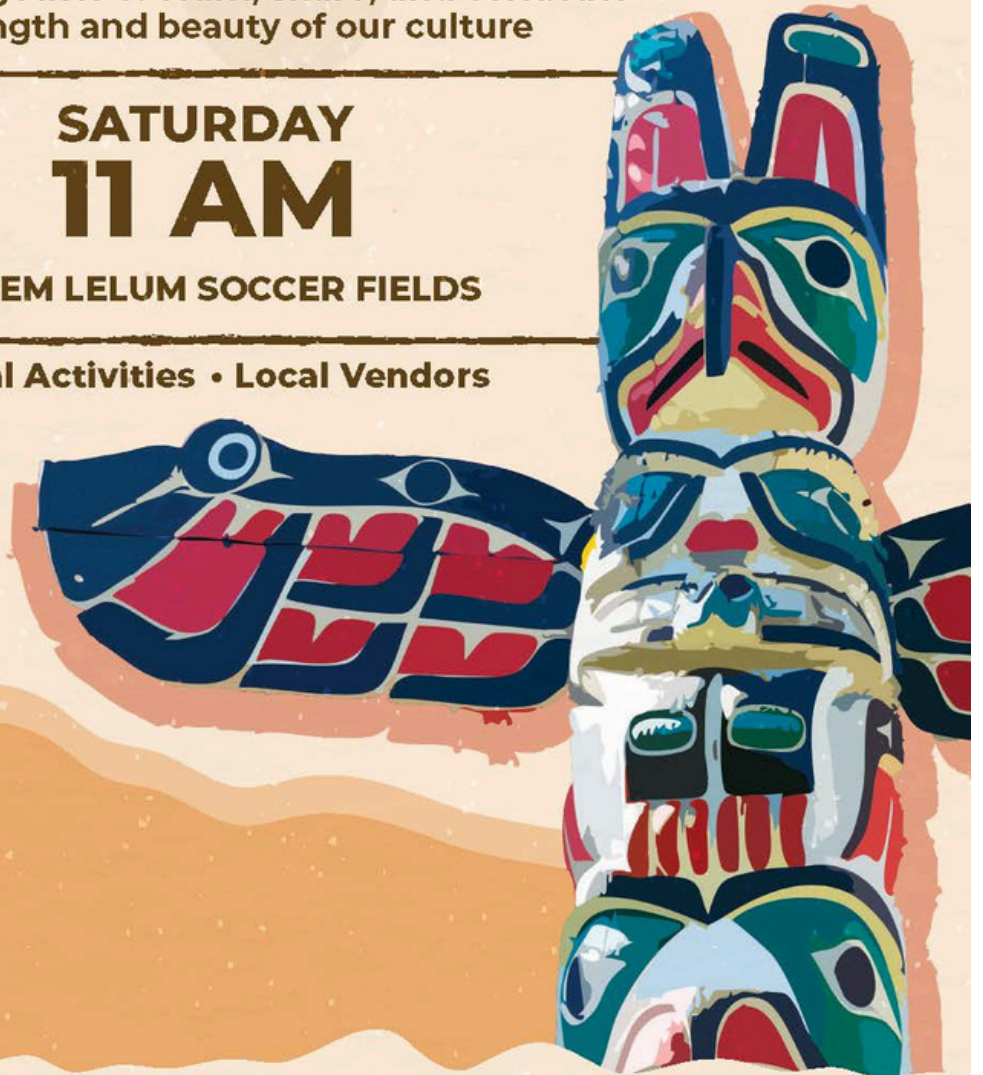
Let's come together to learn, share, and celebrate
the strength and beauty of our culture

**JUNE
21**

**SATURDAY
11 AM**

SI'EM LELUM SOCCER FIELDS

Cultural Activities • Local Vendors



Hosted by Stsi'elh Stuhw tu Smun'eem
For vendor inquiries, contact: events@stsielhstuhw.com

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Pride Month - Duncan Pride Parade

The month of June marks International Pride Month! We invite you to join the Cowichan Valley School District group at the Cowichan Walk and Festival Pride Parade on Sunday, June 22. Gather at 10 a.m. at the VIU parking lot, and join us behind the District's banner. Happy Pride Month!



For the thirteenth time, the Duncan Cowichan Festival Society presents

39 DAYS OF JULY

June 27-August 4-2025
Free Music Everyday!
Beautiful Downtown Duncan



FUN FOR ALL AGES IN DOWNTOWN DUNCAN!
FOR DETAILS, SCHEDULE AND MORE, VISIT:
WWW.DOWNTOWNDUNCAN.CA/DDBIA-EVENTS

10AM - 3PM

DOWNTOWN DUNCAN
Small. In a big way.

Duncan Days

JULY 11TH & 12TH

Downtown Duncan BIA 2d

Duncan Days 2025

Saturday, July 12th | 10 AM – 3 PM
Downtown Duncan

Get ready for a day full of family fun, community spirit, and unforgettable memories at Duncan Days 2025!

Highlights include:

The Grande Parade, proudly presented by the Duncan Cowichan Festival Society – a colorful celebration you won't want to miss!

Bouncy houses, giant slides, cotton candy, and tons of exciting games for all ages.

Entertainment, food vendors, and local fun around every corner!

A drum contest hosted by Craig St. Brew Pub

Motorcycle Show & Shine brought to you by Ignition Motorsports

For more information, visit the events page on our website for more details.

But the fun starts early! 🎉

Friday, July 11th kicks things off with sidewalk sales throughout Downtown Duncan. Come find deals, treasures, and treats while supporting local businesses!

Mark your calendar, bring the whole crew, and let's celebrate summer in the heart of the Cowichan Valley!

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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.



Happy
Summer!