



BENCH NEWS

Phone: 250-743-5552

Principal – Mr. Mike Martin

Principal's Message

Welcome to June and the final month of the 2025/2026 school year. June always gives us a moment to pause and reflect on the year and the wonderful memories that have stood out. June also reinforces how quickly the months and years go by.

During our monthly assemblies I often say to our students...."do your Bench best!" I am so impressed by how our students care for one another. How they take initiative. How they are respectful, and how they try their best. These traits are part of our school culture, and they encompass the spirit of Bench Elementary.

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all our families who have helped in a variety of ways this year. This willingness to lend a hand was on full display during our recent Fun Fair. A big thank you to the PAC and Fun Fair committee for an amazing evening and thank you to everyone who supported and volunteered during this much anticipated event.

I hope the sun shines on you all this June and during the months to come.



Warm Regards,
Mike Martin, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 5 - Camp Imadene (Div. 2-6 Gr. 5/6)
- June 9-11 - Camp Thunderbird (Grade 7s)
- June 12 - PAC Coffee Chat & Popcorn Day
- June 16 - Hot Lunch (White Spot), Bake Sale and Tzinquaw Dancers visit Bench @ 12:30pm
- June 17 - Primary Sports Day (Div. 9-17)
- June 18 - Bamberton Beach Day (Div. 9-13)
Final PAC Meeting & Mini AGM @ 7pm
- June 19 - Rainbow Run & Kindergarten classes visit Kin Beach
- June 21 - Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 22 - Fort Rodd Hill (Div. 5-8)
- June 24 -Grade 7 Farewell Celebration & School Talent Show
- June 25 -Last day of school (2 Hour Early Dismissal 12:13pm)
- June 26 - Office closes for the Summer

Grade 7 Farewell Celebration

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 24th** a Grade 7 farewell celebration will take place! This will include a Grade 7 farewell drive-thru at the school at 4:15pm, followed by a Grade 7 dinner celebration (students only) at the Cook & Butcher Restaurant from 5pm-7pm. A notice with details went home to all Grade 7 families earlier this week.



Library Books

It is time to return library books. Please hunt high and low, far and wide for your library books and return them to the school as soon as possible.

Lost & Found

We have an overflowing Lost and Found. Please stop in and check if you are missing any items. All items that are not claimed by the end of June will be donated.



Lost Belongings on Busses

Student belongings are left on school busses daily. Please check with your child/ren and if you feel they have a lost or misplaced item, kindly visit the Lost & Found at the Transportation Department at the School Board Office. They are located at 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Talent Show

The Talent Show will take place on Wednesday, June 24th and is for students only. Unfortunately, due to lack of gym space, we cannot accommodate family members for the performances.

Moving or Transferring Next Year?

Our planning for next year has already begun. This includes determining our teaching staff for next year as well as the grade organization of the school.

One thing that helps us in determining our grade configurations is knowing which students will not be returning to Bench Elementary. This is often due to a move out of our community but there may be other reasons for leaving. If your child will not be returning to Bench, please send an email to: benchheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca

We do not need to know the reason, just that a change will be happening. When we know this

information prior to September, it allows us to move into new classes sooner.

Outdoor Field Trips

Throughout the month of June, many of the classes will be participating in outdoor field trips. It is important that your child comes to school with:

- A Hat
- Sunscreen
- Water Bottle
- Hearty Lunch and Snacks
- Sweater/jacket

Ready Set Learn!

Each year, our future Kindergarten students (and families) are invited to the annual "Ready, Set, Learn" activities. This is an opportunity for next year's Kindergarten students and parents to visit our school and be introduced to the school and the Kindergarten classroom. The final session is called "Creating Together Session" and will be on **Wednesday, September 2nd from 1:00-2:00pm**. All new Kindergarten families are welcome to this session.

Junior & Senior Girls Soccer

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Girls Soccer Teams, who were undefeated in their tournaments at Sherman Road field and showed great sportsmanship! Way to go to both teams!



Track & Field

Our students in Grade 4-7 had a wonderful day at the school track meet on May 7th. Congratulations to the Bench Track Team who showed tremendous athleticism and sportsmanship at last weeks district track meet.



Water Bottles

With the warmer weather, families are encouraged to send their child with a water bottle that they can refill from the fountain. Our school has a limited supply of glasses for students to use, especially disposable ones.

Homestay Recruitment

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. As a host, you'll provide a safe, supportive, and caring environment to help them thrive. Families of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Hosts receive support and compensation to ensure a successful experience for everyone! For more information, please contact blanglois@sd79.bc.ca or apply here: <https://www.studyincowichan.com/homestay-program/>

BE MY
HOME
AWAY FROM
HOME



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

Sports Day JUNE 17th

Our annual Primary Sports Day of fun activities will be on Wednesday, June 17th. A notice asking for parent volunteers has gone home. The day will start with a preschool and primary student decorated bike/scooter parade before the students participate in a variety of stations. Parents are welcome to come to witness the fun!

FROM OUR PAC

Dates of Interest

Friday, June 12th - PAC Coffee Chat

Tuesday, June 16th - Hot Lunch (White Spot)

Thursday, June 18th - Final PAC Meeting
& Mini AGM @ 7pm



FUN FAIR THANK YOU!

A great big thank you to all of the parents who volunteered at the Fun Fair! Your efforts were greatly appreciated, and a wonderful time was had by all. Special thank you to our PAC and head organizer, Liz Maco.

Country Grocer Receipt Challenge

Until June 12th the class that collects the most receipts will WIN a PAC supported "End of the Year Party" for your class! We receive Country Grocer gift cards for a percentage of the total value of receipts collected. These cards are incredibly helpful in supporting events, class activities and special needs as they arise.



Other ways to help our PAC:

Hot Lunch platform

<https://benchpac.hotlunches.net>


Co-op Gas Membership: #132941

Island Return It Bottle Depot (Fisher Rd.)
acct: Bench PAC

Country Grocer receipts please retain & put them in the PAC box outside the office.

PAC email address: benchpac@sd79.bc.ca

JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Ready, Set, Learn for new Kindergarten families (visit #2)	2	3 Transfer Beach (Div. 13, 14, 15)	4 Camp Imadene (Div. 7-10 Gr. 4/5)	5 Camp Imadene (Grade Div. 2-6 Gr. 5/6)	6	
7	8	9 Grade 7s go to Camp Thunderbird 	10	11 Grade 7s return from Camp Thunderbird	12 Last PAC Coffee Chat and Popcorn Day	13	
14	15	16 Hot Lunch (White Spot) Bake Sale Div. 12 & 17 Tzinquaw Dancers visit Bench @ 12:30pm	17 Primary Sports Day! (Div. 9-17)	18 Bamberton Beach (Div. 9-13) Final PAC meeting and Mini AGM @ 7pm	19 Kindy classes go to Kin Beach Rainbow Run	20	
21 Indigenous Peoples Day <i>Happy</i> FATHER'S DAY	22 Fort Rodd Hill (Div. 5-8)	23	24 Talent Show (students only) Grade 7 Farewell Celebration	25 Last day of school (2 hour early dismissal 12:13pm)	26 Administrative Day (No School in Session)	27	
28	29	30	SUMMER BREAK!				