

Mount Benson Elementary School

4355 Jingle Pot Rd., Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 5P4
Phone: (250) 758-1536 / Fax: (250) 758-3873

Principal: Mr. Gary Dodd

Secretary: Mrs. Jill Williamson



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE # 7

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Principal's Comments

Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter of this school year. The year has gone by very quickly. The rapid passage of days and weeks and months is a reflection of the energy and excitement the entire Mount Benson community brings to the school through their efforts to provide rewarding opportunities for our students and their families. Thanks to a very dedicated and professional staff that has worked tirelessly this year to meet not only your children's learning needs but also their enrichment needs. Our literacy events, the recent successes at track and field, the rhythmic performance and the band and choir concerts are just some examples of this commitment.

Thanks also to parents who support us in so many ways. It cannot be stressed enough how much we appreciate the countless hours and ways in which you contribute to the success of your children. We enjoy an excellent partnership with our parents and the solid support you provide your children is a cornerstone for their achievements in school and in life. On behalf of the staff and students I thank all of our parents and caregivers for your continued support of our school. Your efforts in PAC fundraising, community spirit, hot lunches, supporting our teams, helping with fine arts, assisting in the classrooms and accompanying and driving for field trips are all very much valued and appreciated. We could not do what we do at our school without your unstinting support. Thank you all for your contributions.

Thanks to a very hard working PAC executive and committee members. Your contribution to the life of Mt. Benson is inestimable. These last weeks alone will see all of our students benefiting from PAC fundraising as they've enjoyed year end field trips and activities to places like Science World, Butterfly World, Parksville mini golf and beach, the provincial museum in Victoria, and swimming lessons. Today the grades 3-7 classes are enjoying a whole school day swimming and picnicking at Bowen Park and our Grade 7 dinner and dance. None of these activities would take place without the generous support of our PAC.

The end of the school year always holds some sadness as we bid farewell to those we have come to know so well. For those of our families moving on either to a new community or to the high school we wish you all the best and hope you retain fond memories of your time at Mt. Benson. Our Grade 7s have demonstrated their growth in so many ways and we will miss their energy and enthusiasm. We wish them much success as they continue their journey at high school next year.



Dates to Remember

UpComing Dates

**Final Assembly and last day of school - Wednesday June 27th
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**School starts
Tuesday, September 4th at 11:00 a.m.**

**Band Instrument Rental Night—Tuesday September 18th
5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Staff Farewells

It is a sad time in June when we bid farewell to those staff members who will be leaving us this year. Regrettably, Mr. Sorensen, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Murchie, Ms. Favelle and Mrs. Fowler have concluded temporary contracts and/or received layoff notices due to seniority. All of these teachers will be sorely missed as they have made significant contributions to our school and community over the past year. We wish them well as hopefully they move on to other assignments within the District, and perhaps will even be able to return to our school.

We are also sorry to be losing some of our other staff. Mrs. Smoker has taken a kindergarten assignment at Uplands Park Elementary. Mrs. Mack has accepted a job at Rock City. Mr. Freedman has been reassigned to some other schools. Mrs. Daniels has taken a District job as a Low Incidence Support Teacher. These staff members have also made enormous contributions to the learning and life of our school and will be very much missed. We wish them every success in their new schools and positions within the District.

School Organization for 2007/2008

A drop in enrolment has resulted in a loss of a division next year. Mt. Benson has been staffed for six and a half divisions. Our proposed organization is as follows:

Grade 6/7	Teacher to be determined
Grade 5/6	Mr. Kirby
Grade 4/5	Ms. Christensen
Grade 3	Mrs. Calder
Grade 2	Ms.
Butterworth	
Grade 1	Teacher to be determined
Kindergarten	Mrs. Krause

This is a proposed organization and subject to changes in September when we actually see what our enrolment will be. Staffing will continue into July as the District fills positions.

Out of School Care

It is hoped that a contractor will be awarded the contract for providing Out of School at Mt. Benson starting in September. Interviews are being conducted this week and we should have further information by the end of this week or early in July. Watch the local newspapers for announcements. We are anxiously awaiting this service to be provided for our families.

Mount Benson Elementary School PAC

At the last PAC Meeting the following parents have agreed to serve in the following positions:

President: Sharon Preston-McNeill
Vice President: Lisa Burns
Secretary: Cindy Maurer
Treasurer: David Murchie
Fund Raiser: Lorna Thompson
Bingo Coordinator: Jennifer Tooke

We thank these hardworking parents for volunteering their time, energy, and expertise to serve on our PAC executive.

Grade 7 Dinner

Tuesday June 26th the Grade 7s, their parents, teachers and guests will celebrate the conclusion of their elementary years with a dinner and dance in the school gym.

Final Assembly

We welcome you to our final assembly on Wednesday June 27th at 9:30 a.m. At this assembly we especially honour our Grade 7s who will be heading off to high school in September.

Lost and Found

Items not picked up from the Lost and Found will be delivered to charity. Items can be claimed up until Wednesday, July 4th.

Summer Reading

Don't forget to read some everyday this summer. Read to and with your child. Reading is the cornerstone of all we do and the more we can develop this skill and appetite for reading in our children the better it will be for them in the future.

Your public library has excellent reading programs for children during the summer check it out.

School Swims and Activity Days

The Ks, grades 1 & 2 will enjoy a swim at Beban Park on Monday, June 25th with lunch and playtime in the playground.

Tuesday June 26th we'll enjoy a day of swimming and games at Bowen Park for grades 3-7. These events are always a relaxed and fun way to spend the last couple of days of school.

Sunscreen

Students need to be protected from the sun. Cover ups, hats and sunscreen can all contribute to protecting your child from the harmful rays of the sun.

Dress Code

The warmer weather brings out some more "revealing" clothing, especially on some of our girls. Please remember that school is a workplace for your children and what might be considered acceptable attire at the beach or elsewhere may not be appropriate at school. Not only can skimpy clothing expose you to more harm from the sun's rays, but it also may be disturbing or distracting to others within the school setting. A general rule of thumb is that tops touch bottoms and undergarments remain unseen. Proper dress is not a huge issue at our school but it does come up on occasion and students may be asked to phone home for something more appropriate or be given a t-shirt to cover up if needed.

Track and Field

Intermediate students (and several Grade 3s) represented Mt. Benson Elementary at the Zone meet May 24th. Our hard working PAC also organized and worked the concession for this event as another fund raiser. for this year's track and field meets. Several of our athletes qualified for the District meet to take place on June 7th at Rotary Bowl. Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the District Meet:

Mishka Pidruchney; 100 metre, high jump and long jump; **Cody Munro**; 200 metre and long jump; **Hailey Parnell**; 1500 metre; **Nicole Langford**; 1500 metre; **Nikki Weleschuk**; high jump; **Keira Christensen**; Long jump; **Riley Schneider**; softball throw; and **Alexis Hachey**; softball throw.

Skip-a-Thon for Heart and Stroke Foundation

On May 16th we held our annual Skip-a-thon to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation while at the same time encouraging fitness and a healthy life style.

Both primary and intermediate grades participated and our school collected a total of over \$2700 in pledges for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Congratulations to Keira Christensen whose individual total was over \$300!

Nanaimo Yacht Club Programs for Youth Summer Sailing Program

The Nanaimo Yacht Club is offering a summer sailing program to youth 10 years and older. Boys and girls will learn boat handling, teamwork and sportsmanship from Canadian Yachting Association instructors. Courses starting in July through August, are 2 weeks long and go from basic levels to intermediate with a CYA certificate on completion. This is a fun, challenging and healthy outdoor activity for your child this summer.

Contact the NYC 754 7011 for more info or www.nanaimoyc.ca/sail_training.htm

Nanaimo Yacht Club Junior Membership

The Nanaimo Yacht Club has a Junior program for sailors ages 12 to 19 who would like to advance their skills, and have a summer of challenging fun on the water. Activities include weekly sailing, possible crew positions on larger boats, BBQs, and the odd sailing overnighter. For a small entry fee members will have access to the clubhouse and club boats. They will have the opportunity of participating in racing clinics and regattas as their ability increases. The Junior Membership Program is an exciting way to gain experience on the water.

Fostering a safe outdoor activity in our community builds character and a health body. Contact the above for more info.

Library Books and Lost and Found

Please check for school library books to be returned by June 15th and also check lost and found in box by the gym.