



2023/24 Bench PAC Bursaries –Updates

Overview: The premise of this project is to update the overall offering of Bursaries supported by the Bench PAC, updates are inclusive of the description, qualifications, and process for applying.

The Bench PAC will now offer 3 Bursaries:

1. Win Lewis Memorial Bursary, 1 winner valued at \$500 (academic focus)
 2. Dave Dougan Citizenship Bursary, 1 winner valued at \$500 (citizenship focus)
 3. Bench PAC 150 Year Anniversary Bursary 1 winner valued at \$500 (financial need focus)
-



WIN LEWIS MEMORIAL BURSARY

Description: Win Lewis started teaching at Bench in 1968 as a classroom teacher. She then became a much-loved librarian. Ms. Lewis passed away in the summer of 1987. She is still fondly remembered by past students and staff as a teacher who made each student feel important. She fostered a love of reading and lifelong learning in generations of Bench students. The Win Lewis Memorial Bursary will be awarded to one (1) student, for a value of \$500.

Qualifications:

- The student applicant must have completed five (5) full years of attendance at Bench Elementary, with preference given to intermediate years. **Provide a signed declaration confirming** Bench enrolment. ** this form is available from the Counselling Office**
- The student must have successfully completed their secondary school education in School District #79 (Cowichan Valley).
- Any contribution made by the student while attending Bench Elementary School shall be considered and should be noted with their application. **Special attention to involvement in areas that encourage literacy and learning will be prioritized.**
- The recipient of the bursary shall be chosen from all eligible applicants on the basis of **academic achievement, contribution made while attending Bench Elementary and involvement in their learning community since attending Bench School.**

Awarding the Bursary:

- The bursary award shall be presented to the chosen recipient upon proof of enrolment in any full-time course of studies at a recognized post-secondary institution.
- The bursary award must be used within 12 months of the recipient being notified of the award. However, upon written request for extension up to an additional 12-month period may be considered with reasons for the request.
- Correspondence with benchpac@sd79.bc.ca should be maintained

Application:

- Fill out the Bench School Declaration (available in the Counselling Office)
- Fill out the Bench School Bursary Application form
- Include a copy of the students Grades Transcript



DAVE DOUGAN CITIZENSHIP BURSARY

Description: After 10 years as principal at Bench Elementary School, Dave Dougan, ended his 37 yearlong teaching career in SD79 in December 2013. Never was there a principal more loved and appreciated than Mr. Dougan. His commitment to the Bench motto of 'Be Responsible, Be Respectful & Be Positive' was evident in everything he did. He led by example, modelling this motto of good citizenship by treating every child in the school with the same patience, respect and honesty that he did the teachers and the parents.

The Dougan Family have a long history with Bench school. It was the first school built between Victoria and Nanaimo in 1872. It was attended in the 1870's by Dave Dougan's grandfather, in the 1920's by his father, in the 1990's by his own children, and then was the place in which he chose to end his esteemed career in 2013. This bursary was established both to honour this history and to inspire future leaders to become the kind of good citizen Mr. Dougan role modelled so well.

A 'good citizen' is defined as a person of action, one who takes initiative to contribute to the well-being and betterment of society; a role model for their peers.

The Dave Dougan Bursary will be awards to one (1) student, for a value of \$500.

Qualifications:

- The student applicant must have completed three (3) full years of attendance at Bench Elementary, with preference given to intermediate years. **Provide a signed declaration confirming** Bench enrolment * *this form is available from the Counselling Office**
- The student must have successfully completed their secondary school education in School District #79 (Cowichan Valley).
- Any contribution made by the student while attending Bench Elementary School shall be considered and should be noted with their application. **Special attention to involvement in areas of citizenship, modelling "The 3 B's" and community engagement or leadership** will be prioritized.
- The recipient of the bursary shall be chosen from all eligible applicants on the basis of citizenship contribution made while attending Bench Elementary and evidence of positive citizenship in their learning community since attending Bench School.

Application:

- Fill out the Bench School Declaration (available in the Counselling Office)
- Fill out the Bench School Bursary Application form
- Provide 1 letter of reference related to citizenship endeavours



BENCH PAC 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY BURSARY

Description: Bench Elementary School has a storied existence as one of the very first schools built between Victoria and Nanaimo. Originally a 1 room schoolhouse, Bench has grown into a robust Kindergarten to Grade 7 school, with an average enrolment of 400 students in 2023. Recently celebrating the school's 150th Anniversary, numerous alumni (students and staff) returned to the school to celebrate the years of learning, growing and fun had at Bench School. It is a special place to learn, inspired by the rural setting and close-knit community.

The Bench PAC 150 Anniversary Bursary will be awards to one (1) student, for a value of \$500.

Qualifications:

- The student applicant must have completed three (3) full years of attendance at Bench Elementary, with preference given to intermediate years. **Provide a signed declaration confirming** Bench enrolment ** this form is available from the Counselling Office**
- The student must have successfully completed their secondary school education in School District #79 (Cowichan Valley).
- **Special consideration for students requiring additional financial support for their post-secondary aspirations will be prioritized.**
- The recipient of the bursary shall be chosen from all eligible applicants on the basis of **future learning and career aspirations as outlined, related financial requirements, along with what personal efforts have been made to earn/save funds for post secondary education.**

Application:

- Fill out the Bench School Declaration (available in the Counselling Office)
- Fill out the Bench School Bursary Application form



Bench School Bursary Application Form

An Application Form needs to be completed for each of the Bursaries you apply for. Please select the Bursary you are applying for:

- WIN LEWIS MEMORIAL BURSARY**
- DAVE DOUGAN CITIZENSHIP BURSARY**
- BENCH PAC 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY BURSARY**

Applicant Personal Information

Applicant Name:

Date of Birth:

Email:

Phone:

Residential Address:

Year Attended Bench Elementary School:

Additional Application Details

Win Lewis Memorial Bursary - Please provide an outline of your involvement in areas that encourage literacy and learning, academic achievement and contributions in your learning community (maximum of 1 page).

Dave Dougan Citizenship Bursary – Please provide an outline of your involvement in areas of citizenship, modelling “The 3 B’s” and community engagement or leadership in your learning community. (maximum of 1 page).

Bench PAC 150 Anniversary Bursary– Please provide an outline of your future learning and career aspirations, related financial requirements, along with what efforts have been made to earn/save funds for post-secondary education.

Authorization of Application: I _____(name) verify that all information submitted in application of Bench Bursary selection to be true as presented. Any false representation of information shall discredit an applicant’s efforts to be awarded financial support.

_____ **(Signature)** _____ **(Date)**