

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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Principal: Margaret Davidson
Associate Superintendent: Tom Grant
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

Vice-Principal: Bruce Inglis
Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Grant
PAC Chair: Ingrid Solstrum

2007 October 18

Newsletter #04

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	October 15	GIFT WRAP & ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS went home: Deadline for sales: Monday, October 29
Friday	October 19	Professional Day (school not in session)
Monday	October 22	Class rep parent meeting 7:00-8:00pm Grade 6 & 7 parent meeting for French Immersion (6:00-7:00pm)
Friday	October 26	PAC/Staff Mingle at Acropolis Restaurant
Friday	October 26	GROCERY CARD ORDERS DUE TODAY
Monday	October 29	PAC meeting at 6:45pm in the library
Wednesday	October 31	Halloween Parade

- ❖ **CHANGE IN THE NOVEMBER PAC MEETING FROM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH** (This will be a seismic information meeting.)

GROCERY FUNDRAISING:

PAC buys grocery cards at a discount of 2%-10% depending on the retailer and PAC sells the cards at face value.

- ❖ **ORDER FORMS DUE ON OCTOBER 26!!!** These forms are available at school in the main entrance hallway and the office or by emailing Diana Schmidt at dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

SCHOOL NEWS

Volleyball Teams: Volleyball season is starting and we have a number of very enthusiastic players ready to learn the skills of setting, bumping, spiking, blocking and serving. More information will be coming home around practice times and game days.

Cross-Country Team: Congratulations to all the members of the Cross-Country team. They ran in a number of mini-meets and then participated in the Vancouver District Meet at Trout Lake.

Student Council: The following positions have been voted on for student council:

President	Olivia Chow
Vice-President	Kathryn Baker
Treasurer	Olivia Ruyrok
Secretary	Shana Schioppa
Special Events Team	Jeremy White, Dyamelia Mohamed, Meagan Kaisers, Hamish Clark

Paralympian Brings Message to General Gordon Students: We were fortunate to be able to host a number of Paralympic athletes at our school to promote the unveiling of a free online teaching curriculum designed to teach students about the history of Paralympic sport. Students were able to experience wheelchair basketball and goalball (a sport played by visually impaired athletes). One of the athletes was Paul Rosen, the gold-medal winning sledge hockey player who told our students that overcoming adversity is essential to reaching personal goals. Podi, the new mascot was there to encourage the students to try the different events and to take pictures with the students.

Secondary Options for Grade 8 students: Students in Grade 7 need to be thinking about their options for Grade 8. There are a number of deadlines for Mini-schools, Trek and Fine Arts programs. Parents should have received an Options 2008 brochure or you can go online at the Vancouver School Board's website www.vsb.bc.ca.

Late Immersion Information Night: Students in Grade 5 and their parents who are interested in finding out about Late Immersion will be invited to an information meeting on **Tuesday, November 27th** from 7:00-8:00pm.

General Gordon Logo, Mascot, Website: Student council will be meeting to discuss a school wide contest to create a General Gordon **MASCOT, COLOURS, & a LOGO** that promotes our Code of Conduct of "**BE KIND, BE SAFE, BE FAIR.**" This logo will be the heading and banner of our new website. Stay tuned for more news.

PAC UPDATE

PAC MEETING *Monday, October 29th* from 6:45-8:45pm in the Library. Child minding provided. **CHANGE IN NOVEMBER PAC MEETING TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH.**

GROCERY CARD FUNDRAISER: This is an on-going monthly fundraiser. **Orders are due Friday, October 26 by 3 pm.** Order forms are available in the main entrance hallway. Please place your orders in the box on the office counter. Orders will be available for pick-up on *Friday, November 2*. **This is a great way for General Gordon to raise money from purchases you already make – no extra money out of your pocket!** Questions? Please feel free to call Diana Schmidt or e-mail Diana at dmschmidt@shaw.ca. *Forms are available if you e-mail Diana!* **SAFEWAY gift cards** available until December.

CLASS PARENT REPS: Meeting on Monday, October 22 from 7:00-8:00pm in the library.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS & GIFT WRAP SALE: Thank you for taking the time to fundraise with the coupon books and gift wrap. Remember to return the books and packages if you don't wish to sell them. The proceeds for these fundraisers will be going to the General PAC account, which is used in a variety of ways to support our school. **Deadline Monday, October 29th.** Please bring in unwanted gift certificates or cards with small amounts on that you are not using. We can use them for Christmas Hampers, doorprizes etc.

BOTTLE DRIVE FOR GORDON

Thank you to all the families that have been recycling and returning their drink containers to General Gordon. We will have the recycling on an ongoing basis with help from the Grade 4 and 5 students. Thank you to Kathleen Brown, Joanne Rowlan, Marlene Jones and Ingrid Sulston for all their help with the recycling. **PLEASE CLEAN OUT ALL DRINK CONTAINERS!!! Please bring drink containers only**-no jam jars, pasta sauce jars or other containers which are not returnable for cash refund. Questions! Please phone Anna or Heather.

Anna Guner-Johnson anna@pdgroup.ca

Heather Young heatheryoung2@shaw.ca

PARENT EVENT: NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY DAY- Shari Graydon, noted Canadian author for kids, is speaking on media awareness. She is a very entertaining speaker. The event is on Tuesday, October 23 at Hamber Secondary School, 5025 Willow Street (33rd and Oak) from 7:00-9:00pm.

HALLOWEEN

Parents and Neighbours of General Gordon Elementary School:

Please phone 911 if you see anyone vandalizing our school. We have hired a security guard from 6:00pm-12:00am on October 31st.

The Vancouver School Board also has 9 police cars that will be patrolling around Vancouver schools and Cardinal Buses will be driving around to make sure that children are safe.



Halloween Safety: Tips for parents and kids

Halloween can be a nerve-wracking time for parents. Many communities offer alternatives to traditional trick-or-treating, but many more do not. Unless you live in a community where you know your neighbours well, allowing your children to go trick-or-treating can be difficult. Depending on the age of your

children, there are a number things you can do to help put your mind at ease.

For parents:

- Masks are not recommended. Try a hypoallergenic, non-toxic make-up kit instead.
- Try to buy or make costumes in a light-coloured material. Otherwise, place strips of reflective tape on the back and front of the costume so that motorists will spot your children.
- Make sure their costume fits properly. Avoid anything they can trip over, such as oversized shoes, heels, long dresses, or capes.
- Always escort younger children. After age 10, most children can be allowed to go without a parent.

If your child is going out on their own:

- Make sure they go out in a group of three or more people.
- Draw a map outlining what route they should follow. Ask them to call you if they plan to go on a street that isn't on the route.
- Give them a flashlight and a cell phone.
- Advise your child not to eat anything until they get home. Examine their treats carefully. Get rid of anything without wrappers or looks like it may have been tampered with.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ONE TO ONE READING PROGRAM: There will be a One-to-One training session Saturday, Nov. 3rd at Culloden Church (6060 Culloden – near 45th and Knight) It will run from 9:00am-12:00pm. If interested in being a part of this program phone 604-255-5559.