

# Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School  
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**Safe Arrival ☎ 713-5403**

Principal: Margaret Davidson  
Associate Superintendent: Tom Grant  
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

Vice-Principal: Bruce Inglis  
Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Grant  
PAC Chair: Penny Dagg

**2007 September 21**

**Newsletter #02**

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Monday    | September 24 | PAC Meeting (Library 6:45-8:45pm)                          |
| Friday    | September 28 | Staff/Parent Mingle at the ACROPOL Restaurant after school |
| Monday    | October 8    | <b>Thanksgiving (school not in session)</b>                |
| Friday    | October 12   | Individual Photos  |
| Wednesday | October 17   | Parent/Teacher conferences (dismissal is 11:05)            |
| Thursday  | October 18   | Parent/Teacher conferences (dismissal is 2:05)             |
| Friday    | October 19   | <b>Professional Day (school not in session)</b>            |

## SCHOOL NEWS

**CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING** Cross-Country has started and we have some keen students, staff and parents participating. Cross-Country local meets will be on Thursdays at the following dates and times. Permission forms will be available for those who haven't already received them. The first permission slip is for the Cross-Country practices.

|              |              |                                    |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| September 28 | 3:30-5:00pm  | TBA                                |
| October 4    | 3:30-5:00pm  | Vanier                             |
| October 11   | 3:30-5:00pm  | Jericho                            |
| October 18   | 12:30-3:30pm | <b>DISTRICT MEET at TROUT LAKE</b> |

## COMBINED CLASSES/SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the first couple of weeks when we were organizing classes. Teaching staff consider a number of different factors when looking at class placement. They spend a lot of time and work together to make the best possible learning environments for the students within the guidelines set out by the Ministry and the collective agreement. Following is some information from the Ministry on combined classes.

**Combined classes** group children from two or more consecutive grades in one classroom. Schools combine classes for a variety of reasons. This includes organizing classes to meet student learning needs and combining grades to balance class size. All classrooms include students with a range of skills and abilities. Combined classes are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. They are simply one of the many ways schools meet students' academic and social development needs.

**Academic achievement:** Several studies have found that students in combined classes do just as well as students in single-grade classes. In fact, some students actually do better in language and reading.

**Improved Social Development:** Canadian studies show that children in combined classes have more opportunities for emotional and social growth. The rich social environment helps students:

- Learn how to work on their own and as part of a team
- Build leadership abilities as they work together and help each other
- Develop decision-making skills, and become more self-motivated and responsible
- Learn in an environment that reflects the real world. The diverse ideas and opinions of classmates help expand students' perspectives.

**LUNCHTIME SCHEDULE** In the past the lunchroom has been quite noisy and hectic. To ensure that children finish their lunches and have a table to eat at, we are trying out a new system. Teachers walk their students (in Grades 1-4) down to the lunchroom before the 12:00 bell and sit with them, teaching them manners and making sure that they finish their lunches. Students in grades 5-7 who are on the hot lunch program come down at 12:00 to eat their lunch in the cafeteria. Students who have bag lunches eat in the basement. This new system seems to be working out very well for all students.

**INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS** Mountain West will be taking individual photos of the students on Friday, October 12. More information will be sent home.

**NEWSLETTERS/INFORMATION BULLETINS** Thank you to Clarisa Niks for volunteering to take on the e-mailing of the newsletter and PAC news. We are gathering all the e-mails from our community by way of the verification sheets, so it will be up and running for some time in the month of October. The newsletter until then will be in paper form only and will be sent out twice a month.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES FEES** Please send a cheque or money to your child's classroom teacher to pay for school supplies. These supplies include pencils, pens, glue sticks, exercise books, duotangs, and art supplies. Students in Grades 1-7 need to pay \$25.00 and students in Kindergarten bring in \$12.50. **Please send the money by Friday, September 28.**

- Please be reminded that students will not be denied supplies or an opportunity to participate in school activities if paying fees is a hardship. Please speak to Ms Davidson if this is a concern.

## **BAND PROGRAM**

The Band Program at General Gordon will be instructed by Dylan Cramer (604-318-1157). Sign up will be on September 26 between 12:15 and 1:00pm in Gym. Classes will be on Wednesdays starting October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The beginner class will be from 12:15-1:00 in the Music Room and the advanced class will be from 1:00-2:00pm in the Music Room. The fee is \$120.00 and includes 11 lessons and a book. Please make the cheque payable to Dylan Cramer.

## **PEANUT ALLERGY /ANAPHYLAXIS**

### **Important Notice re: PEANUT ALLERGY (anaphylaxis)**

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction which requires immediate treatment to prevent sudden death from suffocation or cardiac arrest. One of the life threatening allergens is peanuts.

There are a number of students in our school who are allergic to peanuts. ***One student in Kindergarten has a peanut allergy that is life threatening.*** For this student not only the direct ingestion of nuts, but also contact with peanuts, is life threatening. **We ask our school community to please **AVOID** snacks and luncheons containing nut products.** We would like our school community to be “allergy aware” and work together to minimize the risk of exposure for the allergic child.

The treatment if the child is exposed to peanuts is to call 911 immediately and use an epipen. The Community Health Nurse, Kelly Noonan has done a workshop with the staff on how to use the epipen. There is an epipen in the child’s classroom and in the medical office.

The Ministry of Education’s publication *Life-Threatening Food Allergies in School and Child Care Settings* lists great ideas for nutritious no-nut lunches and snacks, a few of which we include here:

- String cheese or cheese & crackers, celery or bread stick wrapped in Swiss cheese
- Raisins, dried apricots, fruit leather
- Salads (pasta, mixed bean, potato, bulgur wheat)
- Noodles
- Carrot sticks or baby carrots; hummus or other dip with veggies
- Macaroni and cheese, pizza
- Pepperoni stick or beef jerky
- Animal crackers, graham wafers
- Yoghurt drink or chocolate milk

The school and particularly the families of our anaphylactic students, thank all students, parents and staff for their cooperation and support.

## **PAC UPDATE**

**PAC MEETING** Monday, September 24 from 6:45-8:45pm.

**GROCERY FUNDRAISING:** PAC buys grocery cards at a discount of 2%-7.5% depending on the retailer and PAC sells the cards at face value. Please see info sheet. Order forms are found at the front table in the Gordon School entrance.

## **SUPPORTING LEARNING**

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** We are working on eight qualities of character throughout the year. Each month 2 classes will buddy up and promote one of these qualities in a variety of ways. (morning messages, poems, bulletin boards, role-playing etc.). The following are the eight qualities by month. Please go over these qualities with your children.

|          |                   |          |                                 |
|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| October  | Being Responsible | November | Having Courage                  |
| December | Being Generous    | January  | Going for Quality/Personal Best |
| February | Showing Empathy   | March    | Showing Respect                 |
| April    | Having Integrity  | May      | Being Thoughtful                |

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **GIRL GUIDES ARE COMING TO GORDON!**

For the past two years General Gordon has been the proud home to the # 4 ***Vancouver Brownie Unit*** that meets on Tuesday afternoons from 5:00 pm – 6:30 p.m. - Brownies is a branch of Girl Guides of Canada for girls in grades 2 & 3. Registration for #4 Brownie Unit is at General Gordon School on ***Tuesday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm – 6pm in the library.*** Anyone interested in joining the Brownie unit at Gordon or anyone who has questions about any other branches of guiding such as ***Sparks for 5 & 6 year olds, Girl Guides for 9 -11 year olds or Pathfinders for 12-14 year olds*** or would like to be a leader **please call Christine at 604 874-2652.**

**SHANA TOVA** to all families and members of families who will begin celebrating the Jewish New Year on Wednesday evening September 12. May you all be inscribed in the book of life, health and happiness. May it be a sweet and good year for us all.

From all the staff at General Gordon.

**VANCOUVER YOUTH THEATRE** Fall Acting Programs: Technique Programs, Creative playbuilding programs and “Voices of the Fraser.” Phone number is 604-877-0678 or visit Vancouver Youth Theatre at [www.vyt.ca](http://www.vyt.ca).

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE** By a mom in a loving home environment very close to General Gordon School. You may contact me at 604-264-7054 for more information.

**VANCOUVER YOUTH BASKETBALL CLUB EAGLES** is accepting applications from boys and girls between the ages of 6-14 to play basketball in Steve Nash League!!! See [www.cplc.ca/basketball](http://www.cplc.ca/basketball). Telephone: 604-738-2377