

# Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School  
2896 West 6th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1  
☎713-5403 Fax 713-5405

GORDON PAC WEBSITE <http://www.gordonelementary.ca>

**Safe Arrival 713-5403**

Principal: Margaret Davidson  
Associate Superintendent: Dan Marriott  
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

Vice-Principal: Noreen Morris  
Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Grant  
PAC Chair: Ingrid Sulston

2008 January 18

Newsletter #09

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Thursday January 17  
Friday January 18  
Wednesday January 23  
Friday January 25  
Monday January 28  
Thursday January 31  
Monday February 4  
Wednesday February 6  
Thursday February 7  
Friday February 8  
Thursday February 14  
  
Friday February 15

Immunization Clinic  
"Hold on to Your Kids" presentation 7:00-9:30pm  
**Professional Day** (school is not in session)  
PAC/STAFF Mingle at Acropol (3:30pm)  
PAC Meeting at 6:45pm in the library  
**Last day for Late French Immersion registration**  
French Immersion draws for placement in program  
**Parent/Teacher Conferences** (students dismissed at 11:05)  
**Parent/Teacher Conferences** (students dismissed at 2:00pm)  
**Professional Day** (school is not in session)  
Grade 7 students leave for Quebec  
Jump Rope For Heart Event  
PAC Movie Night

## SCHOOL CLOSURES:

Please assume that the school will be open unless you hear otherwise on the radio or television stations. The following information will help you. Information regarding school closures in the event of snow, or other emergency situations, will be provided to the following radio and television stations by 6:00am on the morning of the closure: CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM), AND CBC Radio (690 AM, 105.7 FM), FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM 1470/CHKG FM 96.1), BCTV/Global (cable channel 11), CITY TV (cable channel 13) School closure information is also available online at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca).

**ONLINE NEWSLETTERS:** To become more environmentally friendly and save trees we will no longer handing out paper newsletters. You can access the newsletter from the **GORDON PAC WEBSITE** <http://www.gordonelementary.ca>. There will be hard copies of the newsletters available in the office.

**OFFICE PHONE:** Many students have been coming in to use the phone in the office to phone parents for play dates etc. This phone is for the staff and for medical emergencies. There is a payphone in the hallway if the students need to use the phone for purposes other than emergencies. Thank you for your understanding!

## SCHOOL NEWS

**New Staff:** Welcome to **Julie Johnson**, the teacher of Division 13. We would like to give her a warm General Gordon welcome! And again welcome to **Noreen Morris**, General Gordon's new Vice-Principal.

### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registrations for the 2008-2009 school year are now being accepted at the General Gordon School Office. Children born in 2003 will begin attending school in September 2008. The parent or legal guardian must personally attend when registering a student. An official Birth Certificate, applicable immigration and citizenship papers, health immunization records and proof of Residency in the General Gordon catchment area must be presented to complete registration. Original documentation is required. To ensure placement at General Gordon Elementary School for September 2008, you are advised to register early.

**Late French Immersion Registration:** Don't forget that registration for Grade 6 French Immersion starts on January 7<sup>th</sup> and ends on January 31.

**Satisfaction Surveys:** Satisfaction Surveys will be sent home to parents of students in Grades 4 and 7. Parents have the option of filling in the paper surveys or doing the surveys online. The information in these surveys is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. We encourage parents and students to participate in these surveys so that we can identify and celebrate in our school's strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. Please take the time to complete and return the survey by February 7<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for providing us with your valued feedback. Students will also be completing a similar survey online at the school. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call the school.

**Foundation Skills Assessment:** The Ministry of Education employs a variety of assessment measures to monitor curricular programs, school and school district achievement, and individual student achievement. The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be administered in February to students in Grades 4, 7 & 10. The assessment is not intended to be a measure of the grade four, seven or ten curriculum, however, but rather a measure of learning outcomes in three skills areas (reading, writing and numeracy) developing in students to that point in their schooling. The individual results provide only one piece of information in addition to the teachers' ongoing assessment of the students' progress. The assessment provides a snapshot of the student's work on a particular day in three skill areas. This year the students will be doing parts of the FSA test online. Letters have been sent home to those parents of students in Grades 4 and 7. More information will be coming as to the times and dates of the tests. If you have any questions about this assessment please contact the school.

**General Gordon Band:** The Band will start Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and conclude Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be a total of 24 classes. There will be no class during Spring Break. The fee for the classes is \$240.00 (\$10.00 a class, as usual). The cheque should be made out to Dylan Cramer and Dated January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. For further information please contact Dylan at 604-318-1157.

**Grade 7 Families: Kits Info Night** Grade 7 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Kitsilano Secondary Auditorium on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm. Teachers, Counsellors, students and administrators will be giving families information and answering question about Kitsilano's Grade 8 programs for 2008-2009. Additional info and materials outlining mutual expectations, the articulation process and registration procedures will also be provided.

**CanWest CanSpell Contest 2008:** The finalists for the spelling bee are *Jessica Zhang* in Div. 9, *Ryan Albertin* and *Niharika Russel* in Div. 6 and *Andrew Adair-Comonos* in Div.2. **CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew** who won the spelling bee. We wish him luck in the finals.

**Social Responsibility:** For the month of January Divisions 5 & 6 and working with the theme "*Going for Quality/Personal Best.*" Please see the bulletin board in the hallway for their "*RECIPES for SUCCESS.*"

**Canuck's Tickets Fundraiser:** Congratulations to *Thomasina Burgess* who won the tickets. The tickets sales raised \$3112.00 for our French Immersion students to go towards their outdoor education.

**Hot Lunch Dailies:** The Hot Lunch daily fee as of January will be \$4.00. This increase is to help cover costs of our lunch program.

**PAC Meeting:** The next PAC Meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>. **Child-Minding is available.**

### **Grocery Card Fundraiser:**

**GROCERY CARDS AND MORE** fundraiser continues until June.

### **This month orders due by 3 pm FRIDAY JANUARY 25**

Order forms in the school office, main entry hallway, and also on the PAC website [www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca)  
Questions? Contact Diana Schmidt: 604-737-4896, [dmschmidt\[at\]shaw\[dot\]ca](mailto:dmschmidt[at]shaw[dot]ca)

**Gordon School Mascot:** Congratulations to *Yuko Masaki* who won the General Gordon Logo Contest.

## **SUPPORTING LEARNING**

William Glasser believes that all human beings have five basic needs: love, power, freedom, fun and survival. He states that "Quality, therefore, is anything with experience that is consistently satisfying to one or more of these basic needs." This month our virtue's focus is on "quality work" and "doing your best." Most of Glasser's theories and training revolve around how to engage students in quality work and also meet their needs.

William Glasser came up with six conditions or Quality Schoolwork:

1. There must be a warm, supportive classroom environment.
2. Students should be asked to do only useful work.
3. Students are always asked to do the best they can do.
4. Students are asked to evaluate their own work and improve it.
5. Quality work always feels good.
6. Quality work is never destructive.

*(The Quality School Teacher, 1993, William Glasser)*

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Karate for Gordon students:** Anthony Evangelista, a student support worker at our school, has started a Karate class for students aged 6-12 years old. The cost is \$40.00 for the year for registration and a monthly fee of \$45.00. It is on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Gordon Gym. This registration fee allows the student to be registered internationally. The Vancouver Kitsilano Kyokushin Karate Club started on Tuesday November 20 and continues throughout the year. Uniforms are \$60.00. Fall schedule is on the Gordon website.

**"Hold on to Your Kids":** A DVD presentation by Dr. Gordon Neufeld and facilitated by Dr. Ruth McConnell followed by discussion and refreshments. *Come and get a taste of Dr. Gordon Neufeld's transformative parenting approach.*

**Date:** January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Time:** 7:00-9:30pm

**Place:** Point Grey Community Church

**To Register:** Call Donna Henning tel: 604-732-5577 or e-mail [donna\[at\]pgcc\[dot\]org](mailto:donna[at]pgcc[dot]org)  
Childcare Available