

# Gordon Gazette

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

Website: [www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca)

**Safe Arrival ☎ 713-5403**

Principal: Margaret Davidson  
Associate Superintendent: Lynn Green  
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

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

2008 September 2

Newsletter #01

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Wednesday	September 3	Students go to last year's classes
Thursday	September 4	Regular day of classes
Friday	September 5	Professional Day
Monday	September 8	Students will go to their new classes
Tuesday	September 16	Meet the teacher BBQ (3:00-7:00pm)

## SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to another exciting year at General Gordon. We look forward to meeting all our new students and their families. We have a number of new staff and welcome them to our learning community. Our Code of Conduct reflects how the Gordon community is caring, respectful and safe. **Choose to be Kind! Choose to be Safe! Choose to be Fair!**

Gordon School has followed William Glasser's Choice Theory, and we focus on three of his main criteria for a "Quality School:" meaningful work, a non-coercive environment and self-evaluation (where students reflect on their learning).

William Glasser states that "relationships are based upon trust and respect..." and that "staff, students, parents and administrators view the school as a joyful place." We are proud to be following these words of wisdom and we are anticipating an extraordinary year of fun events, enriched learning experiences and many opportunities for children to demonstrate their skills and talents.

**MULTIAGE CLASSES** I would like to thank the parents and the staff for being patient as we work on putting a school organization together that is able to meet the needs of most everyone. There are a number of factors that become important when looking at the make-up of the different classes. Some of the factors we are bound by a collective agreement, others are ministry guidelines that we need to follow, and others involve individual children and looking at their learning styles, their friendships, their strengths and weaknesses. Teachers spend hours and hours of their time making the best educational decisions for grouping the students. It is difficult for us to organize our classes by the first week as families move in and out of our catchment area throughout the summer. We hope to have everyone in their classes by Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**LUNCH NOTICES** Lunch notices will be going home today. Hot lunch will start on Thursday, September 4. Please bring your hot lunch notices with your cheque included in the envelope.

**NEWSLETTERS/INFORMATION BULLETINS** Regular communication is one important way that parents can be well-informed about what goes on at school. Please expect two newsletters a month. We have been posting the newsletter on the website that Ingrid Sulston and Paul Pavlidis have set up for us at [www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca). There will be hard copies of the newsletter available in the office for those families who need it. The school calendar for the year 2008-2009 showing our professional days, holidays and parent-teacher conferences is on the website under the "school calendar" link. If at anytime you have questions about the school or your child's learning please don't hesitate to make an appointment with your child's teacher or phone the office for an appointment with the principal or vice-principal.

## **GORDON SCHOOL AGENDA PROGRAM and PERFORMANCES**

### **Agendas**

Student agendas are another very useful communication and teaching tool. There are 2 added supplements to the agenda including an “online safety” module and a “health and wellness” module and attached to their agenda is the school handbook. The cost of the agenda for the Grades 4-7 students is **\$10.00**.

**Performances** Catherine MacIntyre, our music specialist has taken the time to research and book some exciting performances to show our children and school community this year. These performances are costly and in order to maintain the variety of experiences and number of performances we are asking for **\$10.00 from each student**. The school and the PAC will also be providing funds for some performances. Catherine always chooses a variety of performances for the students to enjoy. These performances will be described in the upcoming newsletters. She will book five performances and then our PAC sponsors two extra performances so that our students benefit from numerous enriching experiences. We welcome families to come and join us for these performances and times will be posted in the upcoming newsletters.

Intermediate students	Agenda/planner & performances	\$20.00
Primary students	Performances	\$10.00
Kindergarten students	Performances	\$5.00

*Please send cash or write a cheque made payable to General Gordon School by Friday, September 19*

*Please don't hesitate to contact us at the school if you have difficulty with finances as all our students need to benefit from the ongoing learning experiences we provide at the school.*