

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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GORDON PAC WEBSITE <http://www.gordonelementary.ca>
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Principal: Margaret Davidson
Associate Superintendent: Dan Marriott
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

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

2008, February 15th

Newsletter #11

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	February 11-22	Tennis XL (Tennis BC) program @ Gordon
Friday	February 22	“Jump Rope For Heart and Stroke” donations deadline
Monday	February 25	PAC Meeting
Wednesday	February 27	Read-A-Thon begins
Friday	February 29	PAC/Staff Mingle
Monday	March 3	Class, group and panorama photo day
Tuesday	March 4	Committee II meeting @ VSB
Friday	March 14	Report Cards go home
		Last full day of school before Spring Vacation
Monday	March 17	Spring Vacation (Mar 17-25 th)
Wednesday	March 26	School reopens after Spring Vacation
Thursday	March 28	PAC/Staff Mingle
Monday	March 31	PAC Meeting

Online Newsletters: To become more environmentally friendly and save trees we will be posting newsletters on the website, with an email reminder to those that sign up at <http://www.gordonelementary.ca>. Some paper copies will be available through the office and at JKC, and on request to Ingrid (604) 263 1920. We are excited at the prospect that we will be able to post photos as well as text in future electronic editions.

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.

SCHOOL NEWS

Planning for School Enrollment 08/09: It's time for us to begin planning for next year's student enrollment. Tear-off's were sent home with conference notices asking you to let us know whether your children would or would not be returning to Gordon in September. If you have not already returned this form please let us know by emailing mgrant@vsb.bc.ca, by **February 28th if possible**. This information is very important as it affects our staffing for the next school year.

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.

Jump Rope for Heart: Congratulations to staff and students for an energized skipping event held February 14th! Donations in support of the Heart and Stroke are still accepted into the office until February 22nd.

Booster Seats: The Vancouver School District already requires the use of approved booster seats in vehicles for all children whose body weight is 18 – 36kg (40-80lbs) or until a height of 4'9" or age 9. On July 1, 2008 Booster seat use will become mandatory for all BC drivers. Questions toll free 1-877-247-5551.

Grocery Card Fundraiser: Orders due Feb 29 by 3:00 pm in the box labeled Grocery Orders. Order forms in the school office, main entry hallway, and also on the PAC website www.gordonelementary.ca Safeway and Capers not available. Contact Diana Schmidt: 604-737-4896, dmschmidt@shaw.ca

Call for donation of items for the school: Check the website for a wish list (click on “PAC events”). Do you have any of these items, or work somewhere that might be able to donate them? Contact Ingrid (604) 263 1920 or [isulston\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:isulston[at]gmail[dot]com) PAC will soon vote on Gaming grant money spending, and we don't want to spend it on items that are available through donations – so let us know soon if you can help out. Thanks.

Scholastic Book Fair: Thank you to all the staff and students who helped out at the Scholastic Book Fair. Funds raised \$2257.19.

PAC meeting: Feb 25th. 6:45-8:45pm. In the library. Childcare available. Seismic issues are gearing up again, and we are expecting a vote regarding our next steps for the upcoming VSB meeting. Please be there if you want your voice heard. Background information on a FAQ sheet circulating this week, and on the seismic page of the website.

Driftwood News Online: Division 8 General Gordon Students photo made the "top story" section on the Driftwood Online's website: Check it out at: http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/saltspringislanddriftwood/

Read-A-Thon: Our annual Read-A-Thon will run from Wednesday Feb 27th to March 7th. Pledge sheets, for students to collect donations for their reading during the Read-A-Thon, will go home with the students a day or two before the Read-A-Thon starts. The Read-A-Thon will open with a book sale in the gym after school (Wed 27th, noon for an hour or so). Please drop books for this sale THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS TO READ in the boxes on the table outside the office. We are trying to get authors to come to the school for the last day of the Read-A-Thon. If you can help with this, please contact Penny Dagg at 604-733-6848, pdagg@telus.net or Ingrid Sulston isulston@gmail.com, (604) 263 1920.

Gala Evening: Dust off your bell bottoms and get out those polyester shirts. It's time for a Disco! You are all invited to a Gala Evening on Friday, March 7th, 2008 at ST James Community Square 3214 West 10th Avenue **beginning at 7:30pm** Ticket prices: \$25 for one or \$45 for two. There will be a live Band, finger food, silent auction, prizes for the best dressed (Disco/70's-late 80s) and best dance(s), and lots of fun! There will be a host bar with water, pop, cocktails, beer and wine available. Proceeds in support of General Gordon French Immersion students on their Cultural Exchange to Quebec. Questions? Email: Theresa.godin@gofishbc.com.

Grade 7 Articulation News to Kits High School:

Out of Catchment Forms due into Kits by Friday February 29th

Monday Feb 25th: ESL testing 8:30-11:30 Kits Cafeteria

Wednesday May 7th English 8 Enrichment Placement Exam, 3:30 Kits Cafeteria

Wednesday May 14th Mathematics Enrichment Placement Exam- 3:30 Kits Cafeteria

SUPPORTING LEARNING

Report Cards: Parent-Teacher Conferences were completed last week. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, March 14th before Spring Break.

Social Responsibility: For the month of February, Divisions 9 and 13 are working with the theme "*Showing Empathy*".

"Empathy is about imagining someone else's feelings."

Ryan, Div 9

"Empathy is thinking about others."

Matias, Div 9

"Empathy is thinking about other people's feelings."

Isabella, Div 13

"Empathy is... when I see people paying basketball and smiling."

I wonder if they are happy."

Astrid, Div 13

"Empathy is imagining being in someone else's shoes."

Taylor, Div 13

Celebrating Families and Learning-The Power of Family Literacy: Learning is a life-long process. It begins at conception and continues throughout the life span. The family, however defined, is at the centre of this learning and the primary vehicle for transporting the child through the early years of life and into the future. And as a child does not live in isolation of the family unit, nor do families exist separate from community. It is within community that children and families establish roots and discover who they are and what their potential is. It takes an entire community, with all that this entails to raise a healthy, confident and successful adult and citizen.

It is strong, vibrant and viable families and communities that in turn create a society that is both economically and socially prosperous - at the heart of this society is learning and it begins in the family. **Where does family literacy happen?** naturally at home... as simple as reading a story to a child, writing a letter, reading a recipe structured programs may be home-based or centre-based possibilities include: libraries, schools, family resource programs, health centres, workplace, community halls and centres and childcare settings. - Reprinted from www.literacy.bc.ca

COMMUNITY NEWS

Global Warming: Evidence, inspiration for action, solutions.
February 19th: Global Warming: Spiritual Crisis and Opportunity

Bruce Sanguin, minister at Canadian Memorial United Church and author of *Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos* explores where we can find inspiration for action.

March 4th: Lessons for the Future from Canada's Climate Policy Failures

Dr. Mark Jaccard, professor of Resource Environmental Management at SFU and an award winning author of numerous books on climate and energy policy critiques where past governments went wrong and highlights policies which can reduce emissions. All events 7pm. Canadian United Memorial Church (corner of W. 15th and Burrard). Free admission. For more information go to www.vtacc.org.

Like to dance? Support the idea of a German Cultural Centre in Vancouver? Join us on Friday, Feb 29th, 7:30 pm at the Alpenclub (33rd/Victoria). Tix \$10, children free. E-mail Elke at germansinbc25@yahoo.ca for more details!

Growth Concerns presents Dr. Gordon Neufeld: Dr Neufeld, Vancouver's own world-renowned psychologist and best-selling author, presents, "*Relationship Matters: The Challenges of Parenting and Teaching Today's Children*". He will address the issues of parenting in today's changing society. How do we provide the conditions children need to truly grow up? How do we shield our children against the rising tide of aggression and bullying? Wednesday April 23, 2008 Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$25 through ticketmaster.ca 604-280-4444

Do you want a Picture of your BRAIN WAVES? We are doing research on how the brain develops. If you would like to volunteer for a study (money to reimburse your time and travel) or want to know more about MEG and brain wave research please contact Dr. Herdman at Simon Fraser University, Dept. of Psychology at 604-444-3773 or Email: brainlab@sfu.ca