

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: Lynn Green
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

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

2008 May 16

Newsletter #17

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Thursday	May 22	Final Track Meet at Queen Elizabeth School (12:00-3:00pm)
Sunday	May 25	Babysitting Course
Monday	May 26	PAC Meeting (AGM)
Tuesday	May 27	Talent Show (1:30-2:30 & 6:30-7:30pm)
Friday	May 30	PAC/Staff Mingle at Tatlow's
Monday	June 2	Grade 6 FI to Camp Clan
Tuesday	June 3	Midsummer's Night Dream performance 6:30-7:30pm in the gym
Wednesday	June 4	Divisions 1 & 2 to Camp Byng
Wednesday	June 4	Volunteer Tea (11:30-1:00)
Tuesday	June 10	Orientation for the French Immersion MACC class parents
Wednesday	June 11	Kindergarten Orientation
Monday	June 16	12 th Night Play at Gordon
Tuesday	June 17	Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday	June 18	Professional Day (school is not in session)
Monday	June 23	Late Immersion Orientation 7:00-8:00pm in the gym
Tuesday	June 24	Beach Day for whole school
Thursday	June 26	End of the Year Assembly/Last day of school for students

Online Newsletters: To become more environmentally friendly and save trees we will be posting newsletters electronically. Some paper copies will be available through the office and at JKC. We are excited at the prospect that we will be able to post photos as well as text in future electronic editions.

SCHOOL NEWS

School Organization for Next Year: We are starting to look at the organization for next year. If you are interested in requesting a specific type of learning environment for your child for next year please look at the next newsletter for a request letter.

French Immersion Multi-Age Cluster Class: General Gordon will be hosting a Grade 3/4 multiage cluster class at our school for one year until they are able to find a place in a French Immersion Elementary School. We welcome our new parents and students to our community and we will be having a welcome and orientation evening on June 10th in the Library at 6:30pm.

Grocery Card Fundraiser: Orders due by **June 13** at 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\[at\]shaw\[dot\]ca](mailto:dmschmidt[at]shaw[dot]ca)

PAC meeting: **Monday, May 26** from 6:45-8:45pm in the library. Childcare available. Items on the agenda so far: AGM, update from the Gordon School Renewal Committee Chair, and planning which PAC events to keep and which to drop next year.

Walking School Bus: We are starting a "walking school bus" at Gordon. Parents walk a group of students to school, following the same route every day, picking up students as it passes their house. We can have several buses each coming in from different directions. Parents are responsible for being "drivers" on each bus. If you're interested in volunteering to "drive" a bus or if you would like to add your child to the list, email Kate Milne (Olivia's mom -grade 1) katemilne@shaw.ca with your location, and add your location and name to the walking school bus map posted in the main hallway at school.

Spring Fling: A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Spring Fling a great community party. Despite the weather there was a great turn out with many activities and events, run by parents, teachers and students. We had a silent auction, a multicultural fashion show, a dog show, a karate show, a great food stand, popcorn, the flea market, cake walk, the fire truck, plant sale, Merry Go Swing ride, painted pots, hair wraps, face painting, balloon rockets, playdough table, helium balloons, win a Webkins stuffy, WSPA table, bocce games, obstacle course, soccer and of course the dunk tank.

Thank you to Buy Low Foods, Sushi, Starbucks, Fresh Salsa and Toybox for donating food and/or items for our activities and silent auction, and to our local fire station for bringing in their truck and a fire fighter willing to be dunked.

Quebec Exchange: Students from Keranna School in Trois Rivieres, Quebec enjoyed a variety of activities with our Late Immersion Grade 7 students. We would like to thank all the students, parents and staff who have made this cultural exchange a success and a trip to remember. We would like to acknowledge *Olivia Chow* (student) who put together the students' journals, Shana Schiopu who designed the t-shirt, *Cathy Marr* for her wonderful communications through e-mail that kept us all together and on the same page, *Pamela Jeffries* for organizing the buses and booking activities, *Wendy Snowden* for taking on the finances, *Ramona Constad* for packaging the students' gifts and to *all the parents* who helped to make lunches and volunteered their time to go on the fieldtrips and *all the parents* who helped to fundraise. *You are truly an amazing group!*

Babysitting Course: For students who would like to babysit for our PAC meetings or privately, there is a course at Kits Community Centre: "What Every Babysitter Should Know." This St. John's Ambulance course is for 11-17 year olds. It will emphasize safety, coping with emergencies and babysitting responsibilities. Each student will receive a certificate upon successful completion. Please bring a pen, notebook and lunch.

- Sunday, May 25th Session runs from 9:30am to 4:00pm
- Cost is \$42.00 per session. Register online at <http://vancouver.ca/parks/cc/kitsilano/index.htm> or by phone 604-257-692

SUPPORTING LEARNING

General Gordon Talent Show: The Talent Show will now be on *Tuesday, May 27th*. The afternoon show will be from 1:30-2:30pm and the evening show will be from 6:30-7:30pm. We have some amazing talented students who will be playing the piano, singing, dancing, hoola hooping, performing Karate moves and presenting poetry. Please come by and be entertained by our talented Gordon students.

Social Responsibility: For the month of April Divisions 3 & 11 are working on "*Having Integrity*".

Math Fair: Divisions 9, 10, 11, and 12 have been working with a math consultant from Galileo. They are becoming experts in math problem solving and presented their work in a Math Fair on Wednesday, May 14. Students in other divisions along with parents and staff came to the gym to try out their problems. *Thank you to those students for sharing their work with us!*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulations Robert Heidbreder! Bob Heidbreder, amazing author and teacher has won an award for his new book "*A Sea Wishing Day*."

Karate

On Saturday, May 3, 18 of our students went to BCIT to test their spirit and abilities in Kyokushin. Our team was comprised of: *Simon Humphries, Forest Scarrwener, Matreya Scarrwener, Michelle Avina-Galindo, Marcos Avina-Galindo, Nicole Castillo, Christie Castillo, Kyler Li, Cole Washbrook, Brian Park, David Park, Giacomo Ferrante, Jeremy Shirley, Coco Chandra, Francesca Ciocca, Lauren Stemo, Calla Smith, and Brooklin Hartwell.*

I am pleased to report that each of them represented our dojo with lots of spirit and performed beyond my expectations. It takes huge courage for each person to come to a big tournament like the Canadians; it is like leaping into the unknown. The experience each one has now gained from participating in the tournament is sure to, if not already, shape and change their self-perspective and self-awareness. We now have new knowledge of our strengths and weaknesses and will continue to improve in the dojo and prepare for the next event. I am so very proud of each member of our team for participating today as this was the first tournament for our dojo. Congratulations to the entire team! OSU!

I have to mention that five of our students were also able to compete and capture some medals. This is a tremendous achievement as we are the newest dojo in the organization, being in operation for only six months. Here are the students who won awards for their efforts; each winning awards from the Knockdown (Contact) Divisions in their respective age and weight categories...

- **Brian Park** - 2nd Place, Silver Medal - 12 & Under Knockdown (91-100 lbs)
- **Nicole Castillo** - 2nd Place, Silver Medal - 15/16 Girls Knockdown - (121 lbs & Up)
- **David Park** - 3rd Place, Bronze Medal - 12 & Under Knockdown (81-90 lbs)
- **Christie Castillo** - 3rd Place, Bronze Medal - 12 & Under Knockdown (101 lbs & up)
- **Michelle Avina-Galindo** - 3rd Place, Bronze Medal - 13/14 Girls Knockdown (Michelle was bumped up to the 121 lbs & up weight division because of she was the only girl in the lightweight division).

Congratulations to our medal winners! OSU!

Also of honorable mention is from the performance from our team from the Vancouver West Dojo:

- Pasha took Gold in his division easily winning his matches with his speed, footwork and power. Congrats Pasha!
- Alyssa also took Gold in her division. She also used her speed and footwork to out-perform her opponent. Congrats Alyssa!
- Andrew (Alyssa's brother) took Bronze in his division. He had a hard-fought and close match which went to decision for his opponent. Congrats to Andrew for his efforts!
- Alyssa, Andrew and I also competed in the Team Kata Division and we took third place capturing a Bronze Medal. Going into the kata competition we were nervous and first up. We made some minor mistakes and ended up in a three-way tie with two other teams. We were asked to perform a second time and were able to correct our mistakes from earlier and bumped ourselves up to a third place finish.

Finally, to the parents, families, and students who came out today to support our team, **THANK YOU...OSU!** It has also been through your support that we have had the success of today. The energy you provided us could be felt on the tournament floor. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! OSU!

Again, congratulations to our entire team!

OSU!

Sensei Anthony

Community Team: The community team Les Smith (community team director), Mike Kulik(programmer), Karen Young(teacher) and Brian Taggart(youth and family worker) work with a number of High Schools and their feeder schools. Les came to our PAC and STAFF meeting to talk about some of the resources and programs that they may be able to offer our school. Some of the programs are: Roots of Empathy, Big Brother Buddies, sport's programs and more. Mike has been working with our Grade 4/5 students and a teaching them to be noon hour game leaders every Monday at lunch. He is also coaching soccer after school on Wednesdays. If there are any programs that you would like to see at our school please let Ms. Davidson know so that she can relay your ideas to the team.