

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: Lynn Green
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong

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

2008, May 30

Newsletter #18

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friday	May 30
Monday	June 2
Tuesday	June 3
Wednesday	June 4
Wednesday	June 4
Monday	June 9
Tuesday	June 10
Wednesday	June 11
Wednesday	June 11
Monday	June 16

Tuesday	June 17
Wednesday	June 18
Monday	June 23
Tuesday	June 24
Thursday	June 26

PAC/Staff Mingle at Tatlovs

Grade 6 FI to Camp Clan

Division 11 to Camp Capilano

Divisions 1 & 2 to Camp Byng

Volunteer Tea (11:30-1:00) in the Library

Midsummer's Night Dream performance 6:30-7:30pm in the gym

Orientation for the French Immersion MACC class parents at 6:30pm

Kindergarten Orientation Tea 10:00 to 11:30am

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

12th Night Play at Gordon in the gym at 7:00-8:00pm

12th Night Play at Gordon for primary students at 11:00am

and for intermediate students at 1:30pm

Grade 7 Graduation Ceremony

Professional Day (school is not in session)

Late Immersion Orientation 7:00-8:00pm in the gym

Beach Day for whole school

End of the Year Assembly/Last day of school for students

2008-2009 General Gordon School Calendar

Please check the calendar attached for all the holidays and professional development days for next year. If you have questions about the calendar please see Ms. Davidson.

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

2008-2009 School Organization: Gordon staff will soon begin to organize classes for the 2008-2009 school year. The professional staff at the school take considerable care in determining the placement of students in classes. There are many factors that are important considerations in this process. It is hoped that the following notes will help parents/guardians better understand how student placement is determined.

The number of teachers allocated to General Gordon is determined by a formula that is established by the Human Resources Division of the Vancouver Board of Education. The number of students in the school determines the number of teachers and classes. Sometimes combination classes are an organizational necessity based on student numbers and contractual agreement. Sometimes the school makes a philosophical choice to have combination classes based on the cognitive/social/emotional needs of the students. Our objective is to create a balance of strengths for each area in each class. In determining the placement of students in classes, staff use the following criteria:

- All classes will be heterogeneously organized with regard to students' intellectual development - staff focus very carefully on the learning needs of each child
- All classes will be heterogeneously organized with regard to students' emotional and social development, with an emphasis on student independence and sense of responsibility
- All classes will be heterogeneously organized with regard to students' facility with English language

- As possible, classes will contain relatively equal numbers of girls and boys
- Consideration will be given to students who should be together to foster peer relationships, friendships, etc
- Consideration will be given to the students who should not be together because of negative interactions
- Consideration will be given to the matching of teaching and learning styles
- Consideration will be given to the matching of teacher/student personalities, as well as the matching of teacher/parent/guardian personalities
- Consideration will be given to the benefits derived by a student who is one of the older/younger students in the class
- Consideration will be given to parent/guardian input

Sometimes parents are able to provide the school with additional important information that should be considered in determining a student's placement. Should you wish to provide the school with extra information, please send a letter addressed to the principal, Margaret Davidson by Friday, June 13. **The information in a letter should focus on some important personal or educational information that will assist staff with placement decisions rather than being a request for placement with a specific teacher.**

Fundamentally, the final decision for student placement is a school-based, professional decision; however, input to help determine that decision is welcome. If you have questions about the planning for the 2008-2009 school year please do not hesitate to contact the Principal.

We would like to wish *Amanda Wardrop* well while she goes off on Maternity Leave. Adrienne Truchi will be teaching Division 3 until the end of the year.

Call for Photos for 2008 School Slide Show

Have any great digital photos of school events or trips? We would love to include them in our end of the year slide show. Any school related photos from September 2007 to the present are welcome (i.e. class activities, Winter Concert, Poetry Café, school teams, Spring Fling, the Talent Show, Sports Day, etc.) If you have 5 photos or less, feel free to e-mail the full resolution photos to Bernard (Grade 6 teacher) at [bwan\[at\]vsb\[dot\]bc\[dot\]ca](mailto:bwan@vsb.bc.ca) Or, ideally, leave a cd, a memory card or a memory stick with Bernard and he will get it back to you the same day or the day after. Please label your storage device carefully or put it in an envelope. Thanks!

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@shaw.ca)

PAC: At the PAC AGM on May 26 the following positions were voted in. If you are interested in any of the open positions please let Ingrid know. Thank you to all the parents who have put their names forward to serve on positions within our Gordon PAC.

PAC Executive:

PAC Chair-Ingrid Sulston

Treasurer- Anna Guner-Johnson/Heather Young

Co-Secretaries- open. We are looking for several parents to share the job.

Seismic Rep- Z Smith

Kits High School Liason-Cynthia Harper

French Immersion rep-Emily Pickett

School Planning Council (SPC): Lisa Chambers, Jan Hare, Jennifer Sears and Ingrid Sulston (We will be voting in new members for these positions in November)

Playground rep: Aaron Dudley

Volunteer Tea: It's the time of year again to say a special *THANK YOU* to the many parent volunteers who help to enrich programs at General Gordon School. We have sent out personal invitations, however if you have volunteered and we have somehow missed sending you one, please don't hesitate to come on *Wednesday, June 4 from 11:30-1:00* to the library for some entertainment, food and drink. We look forward to seeing you there. If you are interested in volunteering next year please contact Ingrid Sulston our PAC chair.

Kindergarten Tea: Seeking current Kindergarten and Grade 1 parents who would like to help with welcoming new kindergarten families to Gordon at the Kindergarten Tea on Wednesday, June 11th from 10:00am-11:30 or noon. You will be helping to serve tea and light snacks, and also talking to the parents about our school. Please contact Ingrid if you would like to help. isulston@gmail.com or 604-263-1920.

Sport's Day: Thank you to *Tim Eves* for organizing General Gordon's Sport's Day spectacular and also a big thank you to the *high school student helpers* and the *parents*.

Staff Appreciation Lunch: Parents are preparing a thank you lunch for the teachers Wednesday, June 11th. Can you make a main course dish, salad or dessert, or can you make a flower arrangement for the tables? Bring your food or table decorations to the table outside the office on the morning of June 11th. Call or email Ingrid to confirm what you will bring- I also need a coordinator, as I will be at the kindergarten tea. isulston@gmail.com or 604-263-1920.

Greening: GREEN THUMBS! You are invited to attend a Greening Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 4 at 9:00am in the Girl's Basement. We will be scheduling a work party, planning plant purchases and choosing a new chair. All are welcome.

Please Return Gordon Library Books: All General Gordon library books are due back. Mary Locke, Gordon's amazing Teacher-Librarian will be working on an inventory of all library books. There are a number of books missing from the library and, as you can well imagine, replacing lost, unreturned and/or damaged books is very costly. Please help your child take a look around your home for Gordon library books. The return of any books found will be very much appreciated.

Lost Pokemon Books A student lost 5 to 7 Pokemon books several weeks ago. He apparently left them on the playground. They are new books without any name inside. If you have any information or have found these books, please let Ms. Johnson or the office know. Thank you!

Moving During the Summer? Returning Late in September?: If your child/children will not be returning to Gordon School in September 2008, please let the office know immediately (if you haven't already done so). This information assists us in planning appropriately for staffing for the 2008-2009 school year. If you are returning to school after the first week of September, please come to the office now to fill in a "Return Late to School" form. We need this information to save a place if your child is not counted on attendance lists 2008, September 2.

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\[at\]shaw\[dot\]ca](mailto:katemilne[at]shaw[dot]ca) with your location, and add your location and name to the walking school bus map posted in the main hallway at school.

SUPPORTING LEARNING

General Gordon Talent Show: On Tuesday, May 27 student council hosted a talent show. We had an amazing group of students perform three times for the students and parents of our school. We would like to highlight their names in this issue of the newsletter.

MC's: Olivia Chow and Kathryn Baker

Judges: Shana Schiopu, Jemimah Raffe-Devine and Isobel Potter

Sound and Stage Crew: Kyle Lessoway, Marcus Viger, Anthony Spent, Nelson Dagg and Dyamelia Mohammed

Piano players: Jeffery Chen, Marcus Tan, Sydney Young, Diego Corry and Tianbo Zhu

Dancers: Morgan Ruskowsky, Adrienne Walsh, Camille Legg, Melina Stromm, Victoria Jeffery, Saige Mackenzie, Natalya Porter, Nyah Rice, Hazel Smith, Nastacia Vaskina, Olivia Milne, Azumi Konaka, Bahar Gharian, Rebecca Gregg, Scotia Turton, and Masa Dajani

Singers: Astra Von Essen, Sonaiya Wilson, Morgan Ruskowsky, Shana Schiopu, Bahar Gharian, Nicole Breeden, Olivia Ruugrok, and Kathleen Lopez

Gymnastics and Karate: Tina Marr, Forest Scarrwener, Simon Humphries, Lauren Stemo, Kobe Gottenbos and Brooklyn Hartwell

Comedy: Brianna MacArthur-Brown

We would like to give a special thanks to *Anthony Evangelista, Catherine MacIntyre and Margaret Davidson* for helping to organize this wonderful event.

VEPVPA Book Donation: Every year the Principal and Vice-Principal's Elementary Association choose an author to highlight and purchase a picture book for every elementary school library. This year the book that was chosen is "*Looking For Loons*" written by Jennifer Lloyd and illustrated by Kirsti Anne Wakelin.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Climate Action Dividend: Every B.C. adult and child will receive a one-time only cheque for \$100.00 for the climate action dividend (from last year's government surplus). If you filed an income tax, you will automatically get the cheque late next month, but you have to apply for your kids. The link is <http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documentslibrary/forms/0131FILL.pdf>

You will automatically receive payment for your dependents, who are under the age of 18 as of December 31, 2007, if you have filed your 2006 or 2007 income tax return and your dependents are registered for the Canada Child Tax Benefit with the Canada Revenue Agency. Parents are entitled to receive \$100.00 dividend for each child, regardless of their income or the amount (if any) of Canada Child Tax Benefit they receive. If your child is not registered for the Canada Child Tax Benefit, visit the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/benefits or contact them directly at 1-800-387-1193 for more information to ensure you receive your payment automatically. For those individuals who do not register their children for the Canada Child Tax Benefit, there is also an option for the parent or primary caregiver to apply for the \$100.00 payment per child through the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue at http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents_library/forms/0131FILL.pdf

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Odlum Brown Kid's Community Ride: On Sunday, June 1 children aged 4-11 can ride with friends and heroes like Axel Merckx, Trevor Linden, Alex Stieda, and Ross Rebagliati or simply participate in the day's other exciting events. Register on race day at the star/finish (no cost). Visit www.cycleforcancer.com or call 604-696-BIKE (2453)

Kalan Porter: A Concert to Benefit "The BC Centre For Ability": Kalan Porter will be performing on June 24 at 7:00pm at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby. For tickets call 604-664-8875. The B.C. Centre For Ability (www.centreforability.bc.ca) provides a range of services to families who have an infant, toddler, or preschool child with a developmental disability. They also provide children, youth and their families support during critical transitions like school entry and beyond. The Centre provides also a number of programs to support adults with a developmental disability and their families. Please go to the website for more information.

**General Gordon Elementary School
2008- 2009 School Calendar**

DESIGNATION	DETAIL
SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW	
Number of Days in Session	194
Number of Days of Instruction	187
Minimum Hours of Instruction in a School Year	Kindergarten: 187 x 2.4 hours = 448.80 hours Grades 1-7: 187 X 4.75 hours = 888.25 hours
Minutes of Instruction each day in a School Week	Wednesday - 185 minutes All other week days - 310 minutes
Length of each school day in a School Week	Wed 8:40 am – 12:05 pm All other days 8:40 am – 3:05 pm
Number/Length of Recesses per day	1 @ 15 minutes
Minutes of Operation each day in a School Week	School Open 8:15 to 3:35 daily except for the 12:35 close on Wednesday
Number of School Weeks	40
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non-Instructional Days 1 Administration Day (June 26)
SPECIFIC PROVINCIAL DATES - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 02
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, November 11
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 19
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 22 to Friday, January 02
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 05
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 13
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20
School re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 23
Good Friday	Friday, April 10
Easter Monday	Monday, April 13
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 25
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 26
NON INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS / PART DAYS (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)	
Friday, September 5 - school closed all day	Social Responsibility
Wednesday, October 15 - pupils dismissed at 11:00am	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conferences
Thursday, October 16 - pupils dismissed at 2:00pm	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conferences
Friday, October 24 - school closed all day	Provincial Professional Development Day
Monday, November 17 - school closed all day	Literacy
Tuesday, January 20 - school closed all day	Numeracy
Wednesday, Feb. 4 - pupils dismissed at 11:00am	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conferences
Thursday, Feb. 5 - pupils dismissed at 2:00pm	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conference
Friday, February 20 - school closed all day	Literacy/Numeracy
Thursday, April 9 - school closed all day	Program/Curriculum Review

* Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8:40 warning bell 8:45 school starts 10:30 recess starts
10:45 recess ends 12:00 lunch bell 12:50 warning bell
12:55 school starts 3:05 school ends

* Wed: 8:40 warning bell 8:45 school starts 10:30 recess starts
10:45 recess ends 12:05 school ends.