Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
2896 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1
☎713-5403 Fax 713-5405
Website: www.gordonelementary.ca

Safe Arrival 713-5403

Principal: Margaret Davidson
Vice-Principal: Noreen Morris
Associate Superintendent: Lynn Green
Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Grant
Trustee: Shirley M. Wong
PAC Chair: Ingrid Sulston

2008 October 3 **Newsletter #03**

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Tuesday	October 7	Cross-Country Meet at the Jericho Youth Hostel
Friday	October 10	Photo Day
Monday	October 13	Thanksgiving (school is closed)
Wednesday	October 15	Parent-Teacher Conferences (11:00-5:00pm)
		Scholastic Book Fair (in the Gym)
Thursday	October 16	Parent-Teacher Conferences (2:00-8:00pm)
		Scholastic Book Fair (in the Library)
Thursday	October 16	Cross-Country Meet at Trout Lake from 1:00-3:30pm

NEWSLETTERS/INFORMATION BULLETINS You can receive this newsletter by email or paper or both. For email, sign up or cancel at http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/59 For paper please contact Ingrid at isulston@gmail.com (604) 263 1920.

SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL REORGANIZATION: Ms. Morris and Ms. Davidson would like to thank all the staff, students, and parents for being patient, and understanding during a difficult week of school reorganization.

SCHOOL BASED TEAM: At every school there is a school-based team comprised of an ***administrator, resource teachers, counselor, psychologist, and speech and language pathologist***. Teachers refer students to the school based team for consultation, support and sometimes testing. Some students will receive a psycho educational assessment based on teacher observations and assessments. The resource teacher will do preliminary assessments which the psychologist, speech and language pathologist will review and give recommendations. ***Students who receive Ministry Designations fall into a number of categories: A-Physically Dependent , B-Deaf/Blind, C-Moderate to Severe Profound Intellectual Ability, D-Physical Disabilities/Chronic Health, E-Visual Impairment, F- Deaf or Hard of Hearing, G-Autism, H-Intensive Behaviour Interventions/Mental Illness, K- Mild Intellectual Disability, P- Gifted, Q-Learning Disability, R-Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness.*** These students will receive an individual education plan that supports their learning needs. This may include modifying or adapting the curriculum, participating in different programs (for example gifted students go to challenge programs), having a one-to-one support worker to help with learning goals and/or time with a resource teacher. IEP meetings happen in the beginning of the year, usually October and are reviewed again usually in February and in June recommendations are made for the following year. These are meetings where the parents, teachers and resource teachers have input into the learning needs of the students. The goal of the school based team is to help support teachers, students and parents to ensure successful learning environments for all children.

GOAL-SETTING/PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE: We welcome parents to come and visit their child's classroom, see their work, talk about goals for the term and chat with their child's teacher. The parent teacher conferences take place on Wednesday, October 15 and Thursday, October 16th.

CROSS-COUNTRY I apologize for a mistake in the last newsletter with reference to the Cross-Country practices. Here are the corrections and the dates of the next meets.

Primary students: Monday and Thursday at 12:20 in the gym
Intermediate students: Monday and Wednesday at 8:00 in the gym.

Cross-Country Meets: Tuesday, October 7 at Jericho Youth Hostel (3:15-4:30pm)
Thursday, October 16 at Trout Lake Park (1:00-3:30pm)

CHESS CLUB: Chess club will be on Tuesdays at 12:20 in rooms 219 and 217. Everyone welcome!

GRADE EIGHT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS: Information will be coming home to Grade 7 students with dates for information meetings around alternative programs (mini schools). Please also refer to the Options brochure available on the website at https://www.vsb.bc.ca/vsbprograms/kto12/apfe/default.htm.

NO CHILD WITHOUT: No Child Without is a community-based charitable program that offers all elementary school aged children with medical conditions or allergies, free MedicAlert protection. It has been created in response to the increased incidences of childhood asthma, diabetes, allergies and other medical conditions. This program is for school aged children ages 4-14. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. Please watch for more info coming home soon.

Scholastic Book Fair: ***Come support reading and the school***! Scholastic Book Fair will be on October 15 and 16 in the gym during parent-teacher conferences. Times will be posted and a sign up for students and parents to volunteer their time.

GIFT CARDS: Earn money for Gordon School!!! The Gordon PAC buys grocery cards at a discount of 2-7.5% depending on the retailer. PAC sells the cards at face value and the money earned goes into PAC funds to be used for "extras" like activities, supplies, etc. Trade us your cash for gift cards for your favourite stores. Use these gift cards instead of cash when you shop. 100 families @ 200.00/month could earn $9000 in 9 months. Order forms are available in School Main Entrance Hallway or from the website www.gordonelementary.ca
Fill out the order form, enclose a cheque written to Gordon School and place form & cheque in the Grocery card box on the office counter. Orders are ***due on the last Friday of the Month, October 31 and November 28.*** If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

Call for Class Reps

Thank you to parents who indicated that they can be a class rep on the volunteer sheets. If we are to have two parents for each class, we need another 20 parents to volunteer. I also need a couple of parents to compile the list of parents that have already volunteered. Please let Ingrid know if you can do either (isulston@gmail.com) 604 263 1920.
If you are not sure what a class rep does: class reps communicate between both the teacher and the parents of their child's class. They may be asked by the teacher to gather drivers for a field trip, or supplies for a project. They may be asked by parents to communicate information or an event deadline to all the parents in the class.

Parent Education: If you have ideas for speakers to come to PAC meetings please let Ingrid know (isulston@gmail.com) (604) 263 1920. In the past we have had talks about about child development (e.g. sex education, bullying, belonging to a community, internet use by children etc), but it could be on anything relevant to parents and the school

New After School Classes – (parent input needed) The School Community Team is looking to run new after school or noon-hour programs at Gordon. They need to hear from parents about what programs we would like. They can be active (skateboarding, dancing) or cerebral (chess, model building). Please bring your requests to Noreen Morris. There will be a fee of $30.00 for a six session program for each student.

PAC Meeting Summary: The minutes from the PAC meeting on Monday are posted on the website and on the bulletin board in the front hallway. Thank you to Thomasina Burgess and Donna Kobas for forming a brand new Fundraising Committee. If you want to be on a mailing list that sends out regular updates (about once a month) on the seismic issues, sign up on the website at the bottom of the seismic page.

Direct Donation: PAC voted to run a Direct Donation Fundraiser this year in place of the Entertainment books and gift wrap sales. Thank you Megan Abele for organizing it, and to parents volunteering to help her. 100% of the money that parents give during the Direct Donation will go to the school (for the other fundraisers a large portion of the money goes to outside companies). The Direct Donation will run from **October 6th to 20th**. Please look out for a letter coming home with your child on Monday.

Safe Arrival: A few parents volunteered to run the safe arrival program, but we are borderline for being able to run the program with the response we got. If you can help run the safe arrival program, and/or phone parents who indicated they are interested in volunteering, please contact Ingrid isulston@gmail.com (604) 263 1920.

Neighbourhood Outings with other Gordon Families: Every other Sunday parent Jennifer Correa and her children Samuel and Olivia go for a bike ride or walk in our neighbourhood. Join her with your family to meet other Gordon families and to get out and about on the weekend. Next outing is Sunday, October 19 @ 10am starting at General Gordon. Contact: Jennifer Correa 604-339-2508, jennifercorrea@telus.net

Fundraising Discussions: Parents who are interested in discussing our school fundraising philosophy - how we do it and who we appeal to - please contact Ingrid isulston@gmail.com (604) 263 1920.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Brownies: Calling all 7 & 8 year old girls!

Do you enjoy games, arts/crafts, camping and making new friends? Then why not join your local Brownie pack. We meet every Tuesday from 6pm to 7.30pm, **right here in General Gordon**. Join us for fun, friendship and adventure next Tuesday at Gordon. For more information contact: *Alana Hayward, 604 216 1021 (home) or 604 312 8320 (cell) or e-mail alana_hayward@hotmail.com.* (Our group is lead by dedicated, qualified volunteers from the local area)

Walk Now For Autism: This walk will be on Sunday, October 19 at Swanguard Stadium in Burnaby. Check in time is 8:30am and the Walk/Run starts at 10:00am. For more information please visit www.walknowforautism.org/bc or phone 1-888-362-6227.

Making Sense of Adolescence: Crossing the bridge from childhood to adulthood has never been so daunting. Come and hear Patti & Colleen Drobot on Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00pm at Templeton Auditorium. To register e-mail Maria Freeman at fre6458@shaw.ca or phone Kathy Lau at 604-254-8440. The cost is $15.00 per person or $25.00 per couple.

Hip Hop Dance Lessons: Learn to Dance – Kitsilano Community Centre is offering a Hip Hop Dance Class. It will be every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm. Phone 604-257-6976 for more information.

Highland (Scottish) Dance Lessons: Taught by a certified Scottish Official Board Teacher and Judge. Preparation for competition, exam work as well as Community performances. Beginners through advanced welcome. Call Cheryl at 604-325-4002. Classes commence in the fall.

Steve Nash Basketball: Check out www.cplc.ca/basketball or www.vancouvereagles.com . Phone 604-738-2377.

Fall Book Harvest: Come Celebrate children's literature on October 5th from 1:00-3:00pm at the Vancouver Public Library. Admission is FREE! And MR. HEIDBREDER will be there. Every school with a student attending the event is eligible to participate in a draw for a free author presentation at their school. The school with the most students at the event will also win a FREE presentation. Book Fair - and win us an author presentation Sign up in the front hallway if you want to car pool, or bus with others.

Ringette: Girls come try Ringette. Visit www.ComeTryRingette.com.

October is International WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH: IWalk Week is October 6-10 and IWalk Day is Wednesday, October 8.

For Sale – 52" Kreutzer Piano in excellent condition. Family needs the space and must sell asap. $1,500 OBO. Call 778 989 7045 or 604 737 7045.