

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 713-6000

(On pick up press 2880. Do not wait for prompts.)

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

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

2008 November 14

Newsletter #06

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friday	November 14	Movie Night (The New Get Smart) at 6:00pm in the lunchroom
Friday	November 14	Vision and Hearing Screening (9:00am)
Monday	November 17	Professional Day (school is not in session)
Wednesday	November 19	Gabor Mate's talk on "Parenting in a Peer Driven Culture"
Friday	November 21	2 nd Portrait Day (1:00pm)
Friday	November 28	Lantern Festival (5:00-8:00pm) More info to follow

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

PHOTO RETAKES: If you would like to have your child have a photo retake, please pick up a form from the office.

SAFE ARRIVAL: Safe Arrival- Started with new mailbox for messages. The Safe Arrival program has started with the help of 7 volunteers. The volunteers work in the office of the school each morning from 9.00 to 9.30. After checking the attendance sheets from each class, they contact the parents of absent children for whom there has been no call from home (or who did not sign in late).

If you subscribed to the program be sure to call the school if your child is going to be absent. You can leave a message (date, name and division) on the specific mailbox opened for the program: call 604-713-6000 and as soon as the automated answer begins (do not wait for the prompts) press 2880.

PLEASE JOIN the team if you can dedicate HALF AN HOUR ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH from 9.00-9.30 in the morning. We need more help to ensure the program can continue!!! For more information: Susan Schuurman- 778 991 7017

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? Consider this:

GIFT CARDS: Earn money for Gordon School!!! The Gordon PAC buys grocery and other gift cards at a discount and sells the cards at face value. The money earned goes into PAC funds to be used for "extras" like activities, supplies, etc.

Use these gift cards instead of cash when you shop at your favourite stores or give them as presents.

Order forms are available in the School Main Entrance Hallway or from the website www.gordonelementary.ca

Complete the order form, write a cheque to Gordon School and place in the Grocery Card box on the School Office counter.

Orders are **due on the last Friday of the Month, November 28**. Orders should be ready for pick up by December 9.

If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

LICE: Look out for your Lice notice coming home with the newsletter. The same notice is posted on the health page of the website.

MOVIE NIGHT: Movie Night will be on Friday, November 14 at 6:00pm in the lunchroom. The movie will be the NEW GET SMART. Movie is by donation and pizza dinner will be sold.

DIRECT DONATION: Thank you for the fantastic response to the Direct Donation Campaign - cheques are still coming in! If you still want to donate, we are unable to give tax receipts after Monday Nov 17th. Put your donation in the PAC box in the office. The Direct Donation Committee will meet in the next week to propose how the funds will be spent, and present to the November PAC meeting.

ELECTION TIME: Please remember to vote on Sat 15th, and make it to the bottom of the ballot for VSB Trustees. Information from teacher Dan Graves is on the reports page of the website.

LANTERN FESTIVAL: Welcome to the first ever "St. Martin's Lantern Festival!" Held on November 28th between 5:00-8:00pm at General Gordon. There will be a lantern making workshop from 5:00-6:00pm in the kindergarten room. A lantern procession from 6:00-6:30pm around the school grounds and a German style meal of bratwurst, European wieners, sauerkraut, Bavarian pretzels and hot or cold apple cider. Volunteers needed for lantern-making, playing music during the procession as well as organizing and serving food. Please call Elke Porter at 604-647-0951 if you would like to help. Friends and neighbours are welcome and we also need 5-6 BBQ's. Order forms will be sent home.

STUDENT COUNCIL: Student council is up and running and they are keen to provide some fun activities for the students at the school to participate in. They also would like to help out in our neighbourhood community and are beginning to brainstorm some ideas. The student council also wanted to help out in the world community and took on the UNICEF drive. All the classes participated and General Gordon students and families raised over \$2500.00 for the children and their families in Malawi and

NEWSPAPER CLUB: General Gordon has started a newspaper club and several students in Grades 5-7 have joined up. We are meeting every second week on Tuesdays at lunch. If any parents have expertise in writing, editing, publishing or any newspaper savvy and would like to help out, please let Ms. Davidson know.

SKIPPING DEMO TEAM: Many students from Grades 4-7 are interested in a skipping club. We will be doing a sign up this week and we are asking for any parent volunteers that would like to help out with this team. There will be practices and then some of the students will travel to other schools and put on a skipping demonstration. Please let Ms. Davidson know if you can help out.

PAC MEETING: PAC Meeting will be on November 24th, from 6:45pm-8:45pm in the library. Child minding available. We will be voting for members of our school planning council. Agenda will include: Dan Graves and other teachers explaining and answering questions about FSA tests (in Feb for Grades 4 and 7); approval of direct drive funds distribution; lice checking workshop; voting in new School Planning Council members (School planning councils are advisory bodies. Their major responsibility is to develop, monitor and review school plans for student achievement in consultation with the school community. The SPC consists of the school principal, one teacher representative, and three representatives from the school's PAC, one of whom is an elected member of PAC, all elected by secret ballot. If you are interested in becoming an SPC member please let Ingrid Sulston or Ms. Davidson know.)

LOST AND FOUND: Clothes are piling up on the lost and found racks in the basement. Please check, and ask your children to check, for missing items. Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS: To celebrate National School Library Day on October 27, the library hosted two Vancouver talents. One was Pam Withers, author of the Extreme Sports series. All of the intermediate classes saw her and her books have been in very hot demand ever since. Rae Maté, illustrator of two Mr. H. crocodile books, came on November 3 and all the primary classes saw her. Students gave her ideas for portraying crocodiles and she thrilled us by drawing them for us. The funds to pay for these visits came from Robert Heidbreder's award to the school. When he won the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, his school received a prize as well. Other author/illustrator visits will occur this year, thanks to the generous support of PAC. More news on them later.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HOLD ON TO YOUR KIDS: PARENTING IN A PEER-DRIVEN CULTURE

Coming to **Lord Selkirk Elementary School** November 19, 2008 – Dr. Gabor Maté, Co-Author of *Hold On To Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers*. Tickets are \$2.00 per person.

“Hold On To Your Kids: Parenting in a Peer-Driven Culture (Why children are stressed, why parents and teachers are Disempowered, and how to restore a healthy balance)” Gabor Maté M.D.

“This book is about the pivotal importance of children's relationships to those responsible for them and the devastating impact in today's society of competing attachments with peers. However it is much more than a book on peer orientation: it is about parenting with relationship in mind. This book restores parents to their natural intuition, confronting such relationship devastating devices as time-outs and using what children care about against them. Offering effective strategies for preserving and restoring the child-to-parent relationship, this book provides refreshing natural alternatives to today's contrived methods of behaviour control. The content is relevant to parents of children of any age, from infants right through to adult children. Readers have commonly commented on how much hardship and confusion they could have avoided had this material been available to them right from the beginning.” ***Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Co-Author***

Dr. Gabor Maté's talk is based on the book *Hold On To Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers*, by Drs. Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Maté. *Hold On To Your Kids*, a bestseller in Canada, has received highly positive reviews in the U.S. and has been translated into six languages on three continents.

Parenting and teaching are much more stressful and difficult these days because our children no longer look to adults for emotional support, the teaching of values, or the modeling of behavior. Peer orientation refers to the tendency of children and youth to look to their peers for direction: for a sense of right and wrong, identity and codes of conduct. Peer orientation undermines family cohesion, sabotages healthy development and fosters an aggressive and prematurely sexualized youth culture. For parents and teachers already challenged by the demands of our multitasking world and by sheer economic necessity, peer orientation greatly complicates the child rearing task. **Get tickets while you can. For Tickets, email maria.atherton@shaw.ca Tickets are \$2.00 per person**

[This is an adult only evening. Unfortunately we cannot offer child care for this event.](#)

Teachers' Tutoring Service: TTS tutors are fully qualified, experienced teachers who provide professional one-to-one tutoring in the client's home. They have all passed a Criminal Record Check. They are a non-profit society that started in 1983 at the BCTF. They charge a standard rate of \$38.00 an hour. If you have any questions please call 604-730-3410, fax 604-730-3416 or e-mail teacher@tutor.bc.ca.

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.

