

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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Safe Arrival 713-6000 when answered press 2880 without waiting 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 28

Newsletter #07

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friday	November 28	Lantern Festival (5:00-8:00pm)
Thursday	December 11	Holiday Concert (2 shows)
Thursday	December 11	Craft Fair (basement at Gordon)
Thursday	December 11	Dress Rehearsal at 11:00 and 1:00
Friday	December 19	Report Cards Home

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.

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

WELCOME BACK to Ms. Parr and we would like to welcome Melanie Traulson, a student support worker who is new to our school and Lyndsay Moffat who will be replacing Mary Locke while she is on health leave.

PHOTO RETAKES: If you pre-ordered photos from the November 21 retake session please pick up your form and money from the office next week. This year the photographer sent proofs of retakes with order forms attached. To order the retake photos please return your order and payment to the school by Thursday, December 4. Photos ordered by the deadline should be received at the school before the holidays.

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.

FOOD BANK/CHRISTMAS BUREAU

Thinking of others during the holiday season is something General Gordon can be proud of and this year will be no exception. Given the current economic climate, we will be giving to the Food Bank and the Christmas Bureau.

The drive will run from December 1st to December 15th. According to the Christmas Bureau they are looking for gifts for teenagers and pre-teens as they are the ones that are typically left out. We all know they're harder to buy for so, listed below are some ideas to get you started and both groups would prefer only new items. Boxes will be available in the classrooms as well as in the front hall of the school.

Food Bank items: Non-perishable food, gift cards (grocery store), rice, pancake mix, soups, canned fish.

Christmas Bureau: HMV, Rogers, iTunes cards, music gift certificates, blow dryers, walkmans/iPods shuffle, curling irons/straighteners, hair products (male and female), bus tickets, movie passes, toiletries (hair products, toothpaste, toothbrushes), hats, mitts, gloves, games, books, jewellery, Pkgs of underwear, belts

Thank you very much for contributing and we look forward to the outcome! Should you have any questions, please contact Avril Bain at bainclan@telus.net or Jenny Scott at jhmz.scott@shaw.ca.

GREENING WORK PARTY: The Late Fall Greening Committee Work Party will be on Saturday November 29th from 10:00 am- 1:00am. Everyone Welcome! Coffee and treats provided. Contact information: lianeross@telus.net or 604-737-8594.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: For the month of December Divisions 7 and 9, are working with the theme "Being Generous"

LANTERN FESTIVAL

Welcome to the first ever "St. Martin's Lantern Festival!" It will be 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. Then there will be 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 have been sent home.

CHINESE (MANDARIN) CLASSES AT GORDON: General Gordon is hoping to start a Mandarin afterschool program. The class will introduce Mandarin and Chinese culture through games, stories, art and music. The class will be twice a week after school, for Grade 1-3 students. If you are interested, e-mail me at 4figleaf@gmail.com (Linda Shaw).

HOLIDAY CONCERT: All the students have been working hard in Music under the amazing teaching of our Music Specialist Catherine MacIntyre. Ms. Mac has put together a wonderful evening for us where all of our students can perform and participate. We have limited space in our gym so we will be having two concerts and two dress rehearsals. The evening performances will be at 6:30 and 7:45pm on Thursday, December 11. The dress rehearsals will be at 11:00am and 1:00pm on Thursday, December 11.

- We are asking all families to only bring two guests to the evening performances so that all families can participate. If you have other guests who would like to see their grandchildren, nieces, and/or nephews perform please invite them to our dress rehearsals. There will be forms coming home with more information.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: The Holiday Craft Fair will take place this year in the basement at General Gordon. Children and adults can sign up to have a table to sell their crafts. The sign up sheets will be up next week. We would love some volunteers to help the students decorate the basement and help set up the tables. The craft fair will be from 5:00-6:30pm and also from 7:15-7:45pm before the concerts.

WINTER HOLIDAY THEME DAY: For the month of December the theme day is all about *winter and holidays*. Dress up as your favourite winter character, sport or object or dress in a winter colour. Winter/Holiday day will be on Friday, December 5. Stay tuned for more fun theme days!

SUPPORTING LEARNING

"HABITS OF LEARNING": This book written by Arthur L. Costa, Ed.D.(Highlands Ranch,C) and Bena Kallick Ph.D. (Westport, CT) has suggestions for parents for strengthening each of the twelve thinking behaviours. We will highlight 2 every newsletter for you to read through and try and identify two or three behaviours to focus on with your child this year.

1. Persistence: "If at first you don't succeed, try and try again." Make it fun and OK to try again. Play board games, work jigsaw puzzles or read solve-it-yourself mystery books. Do an experiment or plant a little garden for fun.
2. Decrease Impulsivity: Build models; connect the dots, word searches, and crossword puzzles. Make your own mazes. Play video games, "operation", "Perfection," or pick up sticks. Look for experiences that show that "haste makes waste."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Special Holiday Programs at the Lyceum: Join us for a morning or afternoon session of stories and arts to celebrate the holiday season! All materials are provided for the creation of high quality seasonal crafts with stories to warm the heart. You will receive a list of the stories we share, as they are sure to become family favourites.

Preschool (3-4 years) Date on December 10 and December 17 (12:30-2:30pm) Cost is \$35.00 for the 2 hour session

Kindergarten (5-6 years) Date on December 11 and December 18 (9:30-11:30am or 12:45-2:45pm)

Preschool and Kindergarten in the Spirit of Chanuka(4-6 years) December 15 (9:30-11:30am or 12:45-2:45pm) \$35.00 per session

Some of the other classes offered are Beading/Jewelry Making (9 years +), Card and Candle Making (9 years +), Mirror Tiling (12 years +), Night Tree Decorating (5-10 years). Contact Christianne's Lyceum by e-mail: lyceum@christiannehayward.com or go to the website www.christiannehayward.com or phone 604-733-1356. It is located at 3696 West 8th Ave.

Christmas party invitation to all 7 & 8 year old girls

Your local Brownie pack is having a Christmas party on Tuesday 9th. All 7 and 8 year old girls are invited, for festive fun and to find out more about Brownies. If you enjoy games, arts/crafts, camping and making new friends, we think you'll love Brownies. We meet every Tuesday from 6pm to 7.30pm, in the kindergarten room. Please let us know if you are coming (or get more information about Brownies) by contacting 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUMI, QUATCHI AND MIGA: Join us on Saturday, November 29 from 2:00-2:30pm at the Bay in Oakridge for the Olympic Mascots big birthday party. There will be treats and games for all, so bring the whole family. The mascots will be coming and will blow out their candles on a giant birthday cake.

SKITS STUDIO PRESENTS: Our annual junior play "Alice in Wonderland"! Adapted by Eva Le Gallienne and Florida Friebu from Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. The play takes place on December 3, 4 and 5. Matinees on Dec. 3 & 4 at 12:30-\$3.00 and evenings on Dec. 4 & 5 at 7:30pm-\$5.00. Tickets available at the door. Kitsilano Secondary Auditorium.