

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 pickup 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 December 12

Newsletter#8

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friday	December 19	Last day of school before winter holiday
Friday	December 19	Report Cards Home
Monday	January 5	Schools open
Monday	January 5	French Immersion Registration begins
Thursday	January 8	Late French Immersion Information Meeting at 7:00pm
Tuesday	January 13	Performance (Kinnie Starr Gr. 5-7) 1:00pm
Monday	January 19	Performance (Michael Mitchell K-4)-11:00am
Tuesday	January 20	Professional Day (school is not in session)

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

STAFF CHANGES: We would like to wish Ms. Sam Barta and Ms. Linda Peterson well in their new ventures. They are both furthering their professional and educational opportunities overseas.

WINTER CONCERT: We would like to thank Catherine MacIntyre for the amazing job she did putting together a concert that allowed all children to perform. We are so very lucky at General Gordon to have such a talent and music specialist. Many hours went into practicing, choreographing, writing and editing scripts, organizing the students for backstage lighting and sound and juggling two dress rehearsals and two concerts. *We appreciate your efforts Catherine! THANK YOU!!!!*

UNICEF DRIVE: The Student Council sponsored our Unicef Drive and the students at General Gordon did an amazing job of collecting donations and made approximately \$2800.00. They earned the right to have an afternoon recess and the top collectors in each class had a chance to have a soccer shoot out with Carl Atterton and Frederic Bilodeau. Ms. Davidson and Ms. Morris would like to thank Brionne Almond and Joel Schabas who took on the responsibilities of the principal and vice-principal for a day. They answered e-mails from other principals and vice-principals, worked on newsletter items, ordered furniture, made announcements, and problem solved on the playground at recess and lunch. They took their roles and responsibilities seriously and did a fantastic job. The students at Gordon can feel proud that they have contributed to the wellness of children in Malawi and Tanzania.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP: The *Gordon Seasonal Loonie Sale will be back on Tuesday, December 16 & 17*. There will be a schedule set up for classes to attend. **Please bring gently used or unused items for the sale. (Only good quality items PLEASE!)** Collection boxes are in the Grade 6 & 7 Immersion Classrooms and outside the school office. We are also collecting gift-wrap, ribbon, bows, and nametags. This sale is sponsored by the Grade 6 & 7 Immersion students and proceeds support the Grade 6/7 French trips. All students will have an opportunity to come down to the lunchroom to buy affordable gifts for their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and/or sisters. The younger students will come down to the lunchroom with their buddies who will help them with picking out gifts. *This sale is not for adults to buy gifts; it is strictly for the children.*

WHY NOT TRY LATE FRENCH IMMERSION? If you have a child in Grade 5 and are interested in a Late Immersion Program, General Gordon will be hosting an information meeting on *Thursday, January 8th from 7:00-8:00pm* in the gym at General Gordon. The Late Immersion program is a great opportunity that promises intellectual challenge and fun learning a new language. Brochures with more information will be coming to your school soon. Information is also available on the VSB website www.vsb.bc.ca. Registration will start on January 5 and end on January 30th. It is not a first come, first serve basis. All registrations, along with letters written by the students outlining their reasons for wanting to participate in a Late Immersion program and copies of their last report cards will be collected. At General Gordon we have 60 spaces for Grade 6 LFI students. If we have more than 60 applications there will be a draw in the beginning of February.

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 who are typically left out. We all know they're hard to buy for so, listed below are some ideas to get you started. 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, I tunes 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 jjhmz.scott@shaw.ca.

LANTERN FESTIVAL: Thank you to Elke Porter who organized this very fun and tasty event. Thanks also to all the parents who helped volunteer their time to make lanterns, cook food and lead the lantern procession.

DIRECT DONATION: Thank you so much to all parents who generously donated to the Direct Donation Campaign in October. In total we raised \$8,000! Parents worked with Ms. Davidson and Ms. Morris to prioritize the teachers' wish list and use your donations to benefit every student. Items funded included musical instruments, a printer, LCD projectors for smart boards, calculators, stop watches, listening centres and music/fine arts presentations. We are hopeful that this fundraiser will become an annual event at General Gordon. With 100% of the funds going to purchase equipment and supplies it makes a huge difference to our school.

LOST AND FOUND:

Items remaining in lost and found will be donated to charity on Dec. 19th, the last day of school. Please check in the lost and found in the basement for your missing items. If you lose something in the last week of term, don't worry - those items will be kept until next term. Thank you Lori Mosienko for taking care of the lost and found area.

RECYCLING: Don't forget to save your holiday bottles for our recycling. Bring them in after the holidays. There will be extra boxes available to fill.

SUPPORTING LEARNING

REPORT CARDS

The first formal report card of the year is being sent home with students on December 19. This can bring any of several emotions/reactions to the home. It is important for parents to understand the purpose of the report card. The report card is to communicate information to the parents about the standing, achievement and direction of your children. Teachers have used a number of instructional strategies, assigned work in a variety of ways and used a number of assessment and evaluation approaches. Please take time to sit down with your child and discuss how he/she is doing, how they feel about their efforts and where they might need support so they can improve. We are all working together in the Gordon Community to help encourage our children to be the best that they can be, to achieve success in their academics, to promote citizenship and to instill a sense of belonging in our community.

The requirements for formal and informal reporting are based on ministerial orders and regulations authorized under the School Act. Schools must follow the specific requirements for reporting students' progress as outlined in the policy. Provincial regulations for reporting student progress requires that parents or guardians be provided with a minimum of three formal written report cards. The formal written report card must be on a form approved by the Minister or school board. Formal reports communicate to parents and students significant aspects of the students' progress in the areas of intellectual, social, human and career development. The performance scale for primary and intermediate students indicates, in words the students' level of performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes set out in the provincial curriculum for each subject and grade.

For Kindergarten, performance is described as one of the following:

- Approaching Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Exceeding Expectations

For Grades 1 to 7

- Not Yet Meeting Expectations
- Approaching Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Fully Meeting Expectations
- Exceeding Expectations

There are two reporting formats that have been approved by the Ministry and the Board. There is the anecdotal, paragraph style or the Grid style format. Both kinds of report cards must clearly describe, in relation to the learning outcomes:

- What the student is able to do
- Areas in which the student requires further attention or development
- Ways of supporting the student in his/her learning
 - ***If you have any concerns about your child's progress please set up a time to meet with their teacher.***

HAVE A FESTIVE HOLIDAY SEASON