

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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(When answered press 2880 without waiting for prompts)

Principal: Margaret Davidson
Associate Superintendent: Lynn Green
Trustee: Patti Bacchus

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

2009 January 30

Newsletter#10

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Tuesday	February 3	Pyjama Day (wear your pyjamas and bring a stuffed animal)
Wednesday	February 4	Parent Teacher Conferences- Students dismissed at 11:00am
Thursday	February 5	Grade 7's to Churchill to see presentation by Sol Guy (4REAL)
Thursday	February 5	Parent Teacher Conferences- Students dismissed at 2:00pm
Wednesday	February 11	Kick Off Assembly for Jump Rope for Heart
Thursday	February 19	Jump Rope for Heart Event/ Wear Pink, Red or White Day
Friday	February 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 jsulston@gmail.com (604) 263 1920.

SCHOOL NEWS

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Kindergarten Registrations for the 2009-2010 school year are now being accepted at the General Gordon School Office. Children born in 2004 will begin attending school in September 2009. The parent or legal guardian must personally attend when registering a student. An official Birth Certificate, applicable immigration and citizenship papers, health immunization records and proof of Residency in the General Gordon catchment area must be presented to complete registration. Original documentation is required. To ensure placement at General Gordon Elementary School for September 2009, you are advised to register early.

TALENT SHOW: The Gordon Talent Show, sponsored by the Student Council will be on *Thursday, March 12* this year with three performances. We will be having two day performances and one at night. Auditions will start the last week in February and students have been filling out the sign up sheets. If your child is still interested in performing in the talent show, sign up sheets are posted outside the office.

GORDON SKIPPING DEMO TEAM: General Gordon has their very first skipping demo team. This team consists of students in grades 3-7 who practice every Friday at lunch. Some of the students have put together routines and will be travelling to other schools and will present at Jump Rope for Heart assemblies. The following students have committed to the practices and the team: *Charm Hanna, Daphne Wang, Magi Bicanin, Julia Piechowska, Aleksandra Dijnov, Mary Sim, Annika Chambers, Taylor Young, Sophia Diamonds, Sarah Howard, Sophie Newman, Emma Traulson, Coco Chandra, Rachel Neo and Skye Gilliard.* Other students are welcome to come and skip Fridays at lunch. The team will be performing at General Wolfe Elementary School and Talmud Torah School on Monday, February 2nd.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART: We will be having a “Kick-Off” assembly for Jump Rope for Heart on Monday, February 9 at 9:00am for the primary classes and 9:45am for the intermediate classes. Our very own skipping demo team will be performing. Our actual Jump Rope for Heart event will be held on February 19th. The 2nd annual event will have all of the students skipping to music in an effort to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

GRADE 7'S TO CHURCHILL: The Grade 7 students have been invited to Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School on Thursday, February 5 from 9:00am-12:00pm to see a performance. Sol Guy and Josh Tolme from 4 REAL will be speaking to students from many schools in Vancouver. You can google 4REAL if you would like to find out more information about this presenter. Here is a brief bio of Sol Guy: *Sol Guy is a renowned music producer who left that career to mark on a new journey. With the help of some of the world's top entertainers, Sol empowers young people to improve the world around them. Through his 4REAL television series, Sol introduces some exceptional people around the world who are making a “real” difference in their communities. His approach through the media allows us to experience the resolve of one inspired individual to recreate or sustain a community.*

LICE AWARENESS

There have been new cases reported to the school since the New Year. Please continue to check your children weekly for lice. After Christmas holidays is a common time for new outbreaks. The best prevention is regular checking. Feb. 4 and 5 during the Parent-Teacher conference times parent volunteers and an information display will be available in the main hallway to provide information, answer questions, demonstrate checking equipment and address concerns. A box for confidential questions to the school nurse will also be provided.

GAMES CLUB AT GORDON: We are planning to have a Games Club during lunch hour at Gordon. We are looking for strategic board games, chess, crib and other games that families may be able to donate. If you have any games that you are not playing anymore please drop them off by the office. Thank you!

BODY SCIENCE AT GORDON: Emily Malnis, the school nurse, will be teaching our students the body science (sex education) part of the curriculum. Visit the health page of the website at www.gordonelementary.ca/node/136 to see Emily's presentation to PAC, as well as her tips on talking to your children about body science/sex education, and a book list for students and families compiled by PAC. Emily will send handouts home after each class, so parents know what she has discussed. Emily has offered to answer questions that come up in your family after your child has had their lesson with her. She does not have time to answer individual emails, but can post answers to questions on the website. Please put your anonymous questions in the “Body Science Questions” box on the office counter. Emily can also answer questions that are posted on the Body Science forum on the website at www.gordonelementary.ca/forum but note that the forums are not anonymous. Thank you to parent Jane Pike and Jane McDougal for helping pull the sex education PAC meeting together. Jane P brought Kidsbooks to the meeting and compiled the booklist, and Jane M. researched speakers and made the fantastic poster.

MOVIE NIGHT: Family movie night at Gordon is the evening of Friday Feb 13th. Dinner from 6:30pm-7pm. The movie starts at 7pm, and will be geared towards younger students. We still need parents to help serve the food, if we want to include dinner in the evening. Food will only be served before the movie, so we need you for just an hour 6-7pm. Please contact Nina Dolleris (604) 730-9223 nina@dolleris.com to make the dinner happen.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM: We are changing how we run the Safe Arrival program. We have many students signed up who do not bring themselves to school and we do not have enough parent volunteers available for the time the program requires. Please look out for the notice home this week asking parents to sign up again if they are eligible for the program. We are also introducing one-day sign-ups for families who need it occasionally. Questions? Contact Susan Schuurman (778) 991 7017.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR CANCELLED: The Scholastic book fair is a huge amount of work for parents, and the February session makes very little money. As students enjoy the event, next year we hope to run a similar book-themed event, possibly with other publishers, or a local bookstore. Any parents who would like to investigate some new ideas please contact Ingrid (604) 263 1920 isulston@gmail.com

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, January 30*. If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

SUPPORTING LEARNING

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, February 4 and Thursday, February 5.

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.

3. **Listen to Others:** "Play charades or telephone. Analyze characters' feelings in comic strips, television programs, and stories read and listened to. Role play how the other person feels in situations where your child experiences conflict."
4. **Flexibility in Thinking:** "Try group problem solving and term tasks. Compare notes on how you do routine tasks like tying bows, mowing the lawn, drying dishes, and cleaning your room—to playing a video game, shooting a basket, or catching a pop fly. Try your child's way of doing a task and encourage him/her to try yours."

COMMUNITY NEWS

KITSILANO SECONDARY SCHOOL: SEISMIC UPGRADE/SCHOOL RENEWAL SURVEY & VISIONING EVENTS

Kitsilano Secondary School PAC would like to invite you, a neighbourhood partner, to help create a vision for the seismic upgrading and school renewal of this important neighbourhood school and resource. We encourage you to participate in the survey and workshops described below and ask that you distribute the notice to those you feel may be interested in this community endeavour in Kitsilano.

The Kitsilano PAC and its School Renewal-Seismic Mitigation Committee have developed a survey to start the process of gathering as much data as possible into the views and ideas that the Kits community has regarding the options of school renewal and seismic mitigation for Kitsilano Secondary. This survey is being distributed to all Kits stakeholders; from federal, provincial, municipal, and school district representatives to business and residential associations, alumni, and community groups, in addition to our Kits school community of staff, students, and parents.

Let your voice be heard! Follow this link and take this very brief survey at
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TYzjYPFb3d1VB7F_2fGrAAUQ_3d_3d

Please encourage all your family, friends, neighbours, and business associates in Kits to take this survey. The deadline for survey submissions is February 15.

Visioning Events

Open House: Friday, February 13, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Drop-in

Visioning Workshop: Saturday, February 14, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Pre-registration at kitssecondary@cityspaces.ca Both events to be held in the Kits Gym, 2550 West 10th Avenue.

Kitsilano Secondary is hosting a Visioning Workshop, a major brainstorming event for all of Kitsilano, in collaboration with the VSB and facilitated by CitySpaces Consulting. The objective is to have wide participation from all our stakeholders to creatively elaborate what our ideal neighbourhood school is and what it might look like as we enter the school renewal-seismic mitigation process. The Visioning Workshop will have featured speakers and facilitated break-out sessions. Join us for the Visioning Workshop, Saturday, February 14 for what will be an inspiring and informative event. Busy on Saturday? Need more information? Drop by the Open House on Friday, February 13, from 7 - 9 p.m.

For additional information, please email kitspac@hotmail.com

MORESPORTS SOCCER AT GORDON: MoreSports Indoor Soccer at General Gordon is on Fridays (Jan. 29-Mar. 6) for Kindergarten & Grades 1-3 from 3:05-4:05pm and on Mondays for Grades 4-7 (Jan. 26-Mar. 2) from 3:05-4:05pm. The Wrap Up Festival will be on Saturday, March 7th at the Roundhouse Community Centre. The fee for the indoor soccer is \$32.00 and includes a T-shirt.

6th ANNUAL KIDS ONLY 5KM RACE AND FUN RUN: L'Ecole Jules Quesnel and the VSB present the 6th annual Kids Only 5km run and fun run on Sunday, March 8th starting promptly at 10:00am. Visit the website to download a form and see the results.
<http://quesnel.vsb.bc.ca/kidsonly5kmrun.pdf>.

VANCOUVER WESTSIDE MINOR 2009 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL: Registration is \$10.00 off until Feb. 9.
Register on Line at www.vwmsa.ca