

# Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School  
2896 West 6th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1  
☎713-5403 Fax 713-5405

Website: [www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca)

**Safe Arrival 604-713-6000**

(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 February 13

Newsletter#11

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Thursday  | February 19 |
| Friday    | February 20 |
| Monday    | February 23 |
| Friday    | February 27 |
| Friday    | February 27 |
| Wednesday | March 4     |

Jump Rope for Heart Event/*Wear Pink, Red or White Day*  
**Professional Day** (school is not in session)  
PAC meeting  
Performance by the Vancouver Tap Society  
PAC/Staff Mingle  
Read-a-thon begins with a Used book sale

## 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](http://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 [www.gordonelementary.ca/node/59](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/59) For paper please contact Ingrid at [isulston@gmail.com](mailto:isulston@gmail.com) (604) 263 1920.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:** Kindergarten Registrations for the 2009-2010 school year are now being accepted. 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.

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Tonight, Friday 13th Feb, in the Gordon lunchroom, is movie night.

Mexican dinner for sale before the movie from 6:15-7pm. Feature movie, "Babe", starts at 7pm. Thank you to these parents for organizing the movie night: Andrew Humphries (Simon's Dad) for setting up and running the movie, Nina Dolleris (Mum of Joachim and Rasmus) for the food and Shelina Bergson and son Joshua for the posters. Please enter the school by the door next to the lunchroom - there is no access to or from the rest of the school. If your children are coming you must stay with them. Thank you.

**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART:** Earlier this week we enjoyed an amazing skipping demonstration by our Demo team at our Jump Rope for heart kick off assembly. On Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> the school will hold our annual *Jump Rope for Heart* Skipping challenge event. All of the students will be skipping to music in an effort to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Your support of this event is appreciated.

**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

## **LICE AWARENESS**

There has 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. An information display has been set up in the main hallway to provide information. A box for confidential questions to the school nurse has also been provided.

**GAMES CLUB AT GORDON:** Thanks to all who have donated games to help us start a games club at lunch. We are still looking for strategic board games, chess, crib and other games that families may be able to donate. Thank you!

**BODY SCIENCE AT GORDON:** Emily Malnis, the school nurse, is 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](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/136) to see her schedule with the divisions, Emily's presentation to PAC, tips on talking to your children about body science/sex education, and a book list for students and families compiled by PAC.

**SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM:** Effective Monday February 16th 2009, only those who have returned the registration form that was recently sent home are on the safe arrival program. Registration form and more information on the website at [www.gordonelementary.ca/node/183](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/183). You are eligible for Safe Arrival if your child walks themselves to school, every day or occasionally. If you can volunteer 9-9:30am once or twice a month to help run safe arrival, fill out the volunteer section of the registration form. Questions? Contact Susan Schuurman, parent of students in division 2 and 11 (778) 991 7017.

## **ReadAThon:**

The ReadAThon runs from March 4th to March 13th. It will kick off with a used book sale on the Wednesday. Please start collecting used reading books that would be suitable for other students to read. Bring them to the school and put them in the box which will be outside the office.

## **PAC meeting:**

Monday, February 23rd 6:45pm-8:45pm in the library. Free babysitting by grade 7 students. Our new Trustee, Patti Bacchus will be attending, to meet us and to answer Vancouver School Board questions. Also, update on the *Neighbourhoods of Learning* project and progress on seismic renovations at Gordon. More agenda items will be posted on the website and doorways in the next week. Questions, or items to add? Contact Ingrid (604) 263 1920 or [isulston@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:dmschmidt@shaw.ca).

**PREFER -Poverty Reduction, Education and Family Empowerment in Rwanda:** General Gordon student council and our nurse Emily need your help. General Gordon would like to 'adopt' a school for orphans in Ruhigeri that was begun by Canadian-born Cathy Emmerson. Classes are doing a number of things to help out such as writing letters, donating underwear and collecting money. All letters, underwear and money will be taken to Rwanda by our school nurse, Emily. Items need to be ready to leave the school by **February 19, 2009**. Please bring any donations to your child's classroom and/or the school office.

## **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.

5. **Awareness Of Our Own Thinking:** "Play checkers, chess, or some other strategy games and describe to an observer why you make each of your own moves. Have your opponent do the same. Challenge the child to give a step-by-step explanation of how he/she makes something and then guess what the outcome will be."
6. **Check For Accuracy and Precision:** "Check your child's homework, home jobs, or other things such as picking up his/her room. Help your child to notice what is and is not completed."
- 7.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Kitsilano Secondary School Seismic Upgrade/School Renewal visioning events:**

Kits Secondary 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.

Open House:

Friday, Feb 13, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Drop-in

Visioning Workshop:

Saturday, Feb 14, 9:30am - 3:30pm. Pre-registration at [kitssecondary@cityspaces.ca](mailto:kitssecondary@cityspaces.ca) .

A brainstorming event for all of Kitsilano, in collaboration with the VSB and facilitated by CitySpaces Consulting.

Both Open house and Visioning Workshop at Kits Gym, 2550 West 10th Avenue.

A survey is being conducted to gather 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. Take this very brief survey at

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TYzjYPFb3d1VB7F\\_2fGrAAUQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TYzjYPFb3d1VB7F_2fGrAAUQ_3d_3d).

Deadline is Feb. 15th.

For additional information: email [kitspac@hotmail.com](mailto:kitspac@hotmail.com)

**MORE SPORTS AT GORDON:** This program is facilitated by VSB staff and supported by high school volunteers.

***Indoor Soccer*** at General Gordon on Fridays (begin Jan. 29-Mar. 6) for **Kindergarten & Grades 1-3** from 3:05-4:05pm.

***Touch Rugby*** is held on Mondays for **Grades 4-7** (Feb 9-Mar. 9) from 3:05-4:05pm. Meet at the gym. 5 sessions for \$20.00

***Early Dismissal Sports:*** This program is available for any Gordon or Bayview students in **Grades 3,4,5,6** students on early dismissal Wednesdays. VSB staff will meet you in the gym at 12:00 and WALK to BAYVIEW for the program. 5 x 3hour sports classes for \$35

***Wrap Up Festival*** for MORESPORTS will be on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

For more information contact, Community West 2 schools programmer, **Mike Kulik** at 604-713-5610 or by email, mkulik@vsb.bc.ca

**6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL KIDS ONLY 5KM RACE AND FUN RUN:** L'Ecole Jules Quesnel and the VSB present the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Only 5km run and fun run on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> starting promptly at 10:00am. Visit the website to download a form and see the results. [quesnel.vsb.bc.ca/kidsonly5krun.pdf](http://quesnel.vsb.bc.ca/kidsonly5krun.pdf).

**VANCOUVER WESTSIDE MINOR 2009 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL:** Registration is \$10.00 off until Feb. 9. Register on Line at [www.vwmsa.ca](http://www.vwmsa.ca)

**Happy 200th Birthday Charles Darwin!** From Tyee Elementary's newsletter, by way of Paul Pavlidis.

Charles Darwin was born on February 12, 1809. It's a day worth celebrating because his famous book, *The Origin of Species*, sparked the "evolution revolution". Celebrate with great books on Darwin and evolution for ages 3 to 15: [www.charliesplayhouse.com](http://www.charliesplayhouse.com) has a list of 89 book reviews organized under headings like: "top 12 picks"; "cartoons, storybooks, pop-ups and romps through evolution"; "Darwin biographies"; and "books about observing the world carefully, as Darwin did".

*Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution* by Steve Jenkins, is recommended for ages 6 to 12. Easy-to-read, incredible plentiful paper-cut pictures. It ends with the Earth's 4.5 billion year history drawn as a single 24-hour day. There are six copies in circulation at the Vancouver Public Library. Other choice picks are: *Uno's Garden* by Graeme Base (ages 4 to 10), *Eyewitness series: Evolution* by Linda Gamlin (ages 6 to adult), *Bones, Brains and DNA: The Human Genome* and *Human Evolution* by Ian Tattersall and Rob DeSalle (ages 10 to adult), *The Evolution of the Horse Coloring Book* by Patricia Wynne (ages 7 to 12).