

# 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 February 27

Newsletter#12

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	March 2	Photos
Wednesday	March 4	Read-a-thon begins with a used book sale
Thursday	March 12	Talent Show 6-7pm, and daytime shows
Friday	March 13	Report Cards Home. Read-a-thon ends.
Monday	March 16	Spring Break – school is not in session
Monday	March 23	Schools open
Thursday	April 9	Professional Day
Friday	April 10	Good Friday
Monday	April 13	Easter Monday

## 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 <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 <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 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 daytime performances and one at night from 6-7pm. Auditions times will be posted outside the office and will take place at lunchtime.

**ENVIRONMENT CLUB:** The "Environment Club" is challenging everyone to a garbage free lunch on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. This means no packaged foods and reusable containers only. Put your drink in a reusable bottle or just drink from the fountain. Put your sandwich in a container that you can take home and use over and over again. Think about choosing foods that you don't have anything to throw out, like grapes or carrots. We will be going around to each division after lunch to get a count of garbage free lunches for the whole school.

**SPRING FLING:** Our annual Spring Fair is on May 9<sup>th</sup> this year, from 3-8pm. We look forward to a fun school and community event that brings people together and raises funds for the school PAC. **Food:** We are planning more than one food stand this year, as the event covers dinnertime. We will bring in local food vendors, if necessary, to provide variety and reduce the lines. It would be great to keep the food in-house, with parents running a food stand - are any classes or groups of parents interested in organizing a food stand? **Activities:** We encourage families and students to run games, crafts and other activities at the fair - last year was a success because of the variety of activities you came up with. We will post a sign up sheet closer to the event. **Contacts for questions and ideas:** Ingrid Sulston ([isulston@gmail.com](mailto:isulston@gmail.com) or 604-263-1920) or Jennifer Sears ([jennifersears@telus.net](mailto:jennifersears@telus.net) or 604-736-2932).

**READ-A-THON WEEK** Running from March 4<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> this year, the ReadAthon is our annual celebration of reading and a fundraiser for library books. Look out for the notice coming home with students. It kicks off with a used book sale on March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon in the main hallway, where students can buy books for the ReadAthon. We are looking for donations of books - please bring in books that are suitable for students to read, and leave them in the box outside the office. During the week of the ReadAthon, students read as much as they can, ask for donations from family and friends, and participate in the events scheduled. The class that raises the most money during the ReadAthon will get a prize. During ReadAthon week there will be many activities: Monday-*Bring a Joke/Riddle Day*, Tuesday-*Dress up as your Favourite Character Day*, Wednesday-*Current Events Day*, Thursday-*Talent Show and bring your Favourite Song Day*, Friday-*Poem in Your Pocket Day*.

**DIRECT DONATION TAX RECEIPTS:** The tax receipts from the Direct Donation Campaign are ready for pick up. If you donated to the Direct Donation, your tax receipt is available for pick up in the school office. Thank you again for your donation. Ms Mac is very happy with her new musical instruments, some of the items purchased with the Direct Donation funds.

**BADMINTON AT GORDON:** Badminton season has started and for the first time ever General Gordon will be entering a team into the district league. We will also be looking at having our very own General Gordon Tournament as not many students are able to participate in the district league (8-16 students only). The following are the practice times and we encourage all students to participate:

<b><u>Grade 7 students</u></b>	Mondays at lunch	Thursday mornings at 8:00am (Games on Thursdays)
<b><u>Grade 6 students</u></b>	Tuesdays at lunch	Monday mornings at 8:00am
<b><u>Grade 4/5 students</u></b>		Tuesday mornings at 8:00am

**CONGRATULATIONS TO GORDON SCHOOL:** Gordon school has received a plaque that has acknowledged our school as one of the **Top 10 improved fundraising schools in BC**. UNICEF thanks our community for raising \$2929.00 in support of schools in Africa.

**LOST AND FOUND:** The end of Term 2 is approaching. All items that have been in the Lost & Found for more than two weeks will be donated to charity on Friday, March 13th. If you have missing items, please check for them in the Lost & Found area (basement level, by elevator). Many thanks!

**GAMES CLUB AT GORDON:** We would like to thank all of the families who have donated games. We now have a good number for our games club and our rainy day games.

**MARCH 13- KICKOFF FOR GRADE 6 FRENCH IMMERSION RAFFLE:** Grade 6 French Immersion students will be selling raffle tickets, starting March 13, to help fund this year's Camp Clan event, where they are truly immersed in the French language for a few days. The raffle extends over school break, and has many prizes, varying from snowshoes to electronic games to movie tickets to gift certificates.

**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 Friday, March 6th**. **SAFEMART CARDS ARE AVAILABLE ANY TIME!** If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email [dmschmidt@shaw.ca](mailto:dmschmidt@shaw.ca).

**STREET HOCKEY:** We are starting up the informal street hockey meet again this year. Come to the west undercover hockey area at the school on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. First meeting will be on March 11<sup>th</sup>, after daylight savings starts.

## **SUPPORTING LEARNING**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS OF LEARNING:** Thanks to the lobbying by the PAC and the community, the Province and the VSB put together the "Neighbourhoods of Learning" initiative. General Gordon School has been chosen by the Premier as a pilot project for a "Neighbourhood of Learning." The vision for the Neighbourhood Centres of Learning and Development are: That they will be distinct centres that utilize space and resources in existing, renovated or new facilities to provide the surrounding neighbourhood an array of programs and services to serve the needs and interests of parents and their children from the time of infancy to adolescence, as well as the needs and interests of the community as a whole. We have put together a representative team with two teachers, two parents, two community members and two administrators. Brook and Associates is the consulting firm that has been engaged by the Ministry and the VSB to facilitate a process that allows for consultation. We are asking the school community to identify needs, interests, programs, services and partnerships that would be beneficial for our students and our school community. Please send your ideas to Z Smith or Charlotte French.

We're all looking forward to a seismically upgraded Gordon that keeps our kids safe without losing functions like a full-size library and afterschool care. The goal is to develop a way of seismically upgrading schools while preserving or expanding functions that support community needs. Gordon is one of three "pilot" schools in the Vancouver area. The first step has been to identify all the functions supported by the current building (classroom teaching, afterschool care, community group meetings, athletics, music, performance, etc.) and then to identify what other functions would be a good fit for a renewed facility. In parallel, community groups are being contacted seeking input. There will be opportunities for public input, including a community meeting. Talk it up with your neighbours--what's your vision for Gordon as a place that's a great place for kids to learn but also does more? Should the gym be expanded to double as a satellite community centre health fitness facility? Should there be rooms dedicated for adult education? Should we partner with a pre-school?

This phase should be completed this spring. Over the summer, design teams will develop plan options and cost estimates. The goal would be to come to project agreement early in the fall, and then design & construction work can begin. Contact PAC chair Ingrid Sulston to find out what you can do to help.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**MR. H. AND HIS UNRULY PUPPETS:** You are invited to the release screening of: Mr. H. and his Unruly Puppets at UBC Royal Bank Cinema (6275 Crescent Rd., upper level Chan Centre) on Sunday, March 1 at 2:00pm. Please join us for a reception in the CHAN lobby after the screening. This completed DVD explores the wonderful work that students and Mr. Heibredner were doing with puppets in the classroom. Mr. Heibredner taught for many years at General Gordon and his amazing world of puppets and expertise in teaching has touched the lives of many children in our school community.

**BOOK LAUNCH:** You are all invited to help Robyn Harding celebrate the launch of her two new books: “Mom, Will This Chicken Give Me Man Boobs? My Confused, Guilt-Ridden, and Stressful Struggle to Raise a Green Family” and my first teen novel, “My Parents Are Sex Maniacs... A High School Horror Story.” The launch will take place March 12<sup>th</sup>, at KidsBooks (3083 West Broadway) at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome so spread the word. Hope to see you there!

**WORLD WATER DAY ON MARCH 22:** On March 22 at the Wired Monk Bistro on 4<sup>th</sup> and Trafalgar there will be an evening of socializing, entertainment, and meaningful fun to raise money to help build and repair clean water wells in Northern Africa. All monies raised will go to the Water Team (Vancouver Based) and Life Water Canada. Tax receipts will be provided for all donations, merchandise, goods and services. E-mail Melanie at [melanietraulsen@hotmail.com](mailto:melanietraulsen@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

**KITS “FOOD FOR FREEDOM” FUNDRAISER:** An evening of fine food, student entertainment and a silent auction! The goal is to raise \$8500.00 that is the amount necessary to build a school in a developing nation. The evening is on March 27 and more information will follow.

**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.  
<http://quesnel.vsb.bc.ca/kidsonly5kmrun.pdf>.

**VANCOUVER YOUTH THEATRE – SPRING BREAK:** Spring Break Acting Programs are back!!

- On Camera For Kids – Ages 8-12 Fee \$100.00 for 3 sessions /On Camera For Teens – Ages 13-18 Fee \$100.00 for 3 sessions
- Call 604-877-0678 or visit the website <http://www.vyt.ca/>