

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 March 27

Newsletter#14

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Wednesday	April 1	Carousel Theatre presents "The Big Show" 9:00am & 10:45am
Tuesday	April 7	Aboriginal Day Celebration
Thursday	April 9	Professional Day
Friday	April 10	Good Friday –school is not in session
Monday	April 13	Easter Monday- school is not in session
Friday	April 17	Hat Day sponsored by student council
Wednesday	April 22	Volunteer Tea

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 www.gordonelementary.ca/node/59 For paper please contact Ingrid at isulston@gmail.com (604) 263 1920.

SCHOOL NEWS

URGENT!!! KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: If you have a child who is entering Kindergarten in September of 2009 and you are in the General Gordon catchment area, please register your *child before April 3 in order to guarantee a spot in our school*. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call us at the school. 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.

PASSPORT TO FITNESS: Act Now! BC has five new initiatives. Active Communities is one of these initiatives that involve children and families in our community. *Every child at our school and in schools across B.C. will receive a "Passport to Fitness" booklet.* Children and their families are encouraged to participate in the many activities, which include swimming, skating, walking trails, circus arts and wall climbing. When students finish an activity at school or with their family they can get their passport stamped. Amy Vermeulen, an Olympic soccer player presented the Passport to Fitness activities on Tuesday, March 24.

The goal of this initiative is to provide fitness adventure passports to help children become more active. The objectives of the passport initiative is to make people more aware of fitness opportunities; identify fun and interesting fitness adventures; motivation to complete the passport activities with fun, recognition and prizes. Our students will be receiving their booklets along with a letter to explain how the passports work.

SATISFACTION SURVEYS-Parents of Grades 4 and 7 students

The Satisfaction Survey is for students in grade 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents and staff. This survey is administered to school communities throughout British Columbia each year and gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety and achievement. The information can be used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. We encourage parents of grade 4 and 7 to participate in this electronic survey, as the results can help in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as provide opportunities for school focus. Students in grade 4 and 7 will be completing the survey during the school day. **Electronic surveying is available until April 24th, 2009.** Parents of grade 4, 7 students can complete the survey by going to the website (http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm) and accessing the survey by using the logon numbers provided. It should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete the survey online. Computers will be available in the library during the week of April 13 -17 for parents to finish the survey. Translations for parents are available in 16 languages on the internet at: (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat/translations.htm). We thank you for taking the time to provide us with your valued feedback. Parents of Grades 4 & 7 students will be receiving a letter from the school with a logon number attached.

SPRING FLING: Our annual Spring Fair is on May 9th 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. Please start brainstorming activities that you would like to see or bring to the spring fling. Last year was a success because of the originality and variety of events run by students and parents. We will schedule a spring fling planning meeting, and start discussions, time permitting, at the end of the PAC meeting on Monday. Ideas or questions? Contact Ingrid Sulston (isulston@gmail.com or 604-263-1920) or Jennifer Sears (jennifersears@telus.net or 604-736-2932)

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 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 March 30**. **SAFEWAY CARDS available any time**. If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

STREET HOCKEY: Come to the west undercover hockey area at the school on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm to play drop in street hockey with other Gordon students and other kids in the neighbourhood.

RECYCLING: Just a reminder that we are running our recycling for drink containers in the basement all year. 100% of money from the collection goes to PAC funds. We collect all drink containers including wine, beer and liquor bottles. No dairy or soy containers. We collected over 2,500 containers before our Christmas break. Thank you to all the parents that came out to assist with the counting before pick-up - Marianne Akune, Charlotte French, Jennifer Sears, Ingrid Sulston, Heather Young, Mike Johnson, Eva Ziduliak and Anna Johnson.

PAC MEETING

March 30th from 7:00-8:45

Speaker (7pm): James Skinner will talk about *"Pressured kids, pressured parents: creating balance for your family and Choice Theory: relationships based on trust, respect and motivation"*. Jim Skinner is the Executive Director of the Adlerian Psychology Association of BC.

Seismic update and election (8pm): We will elect a third parent to the group that is working with consultants on our seismic upgrades. Please attend if you are interested in defining this important parent group.

Charlotte French and Z Smith are the two parents already involved. See seismic update below for more info.

Spring fling planning: we will schedule a spring fling planning meeting, and time permitting, discuss spring fling events.

Neighbourhoods of Learning (Seismic Upgrade): Work continues on getting a seismically upgraded building without losing area, functionality, and quality. Thanks to the lobbying of parents and community members, the province and the VSB announced a pilot program called "Neighbourhoods of Learning" (NoL) back in September. The key idea is that school buildings have to support classroom instruction, but they also have been providing space for other functions like afterschool care, covered outdoor play areas, two-language libraries, arts spaces, and community group functions. When General Gordon was built, the VSB recognized the need for space for these functions, but current provincial standards don't include these areas. The NoL program has established 'Representative Teams' from each school to help define the "program" (the list of required spaces and areas) that will be given to design teams. The Representative Team (consisting of 2 teachers, 2 administrators, 2 VSB reps, 2 parents of current students, and, at our insistence, 2 community members) has met twice so far. Going forward, we have one all-day meeting coming up and 1 or 2 more 1-hour meetings between now and the end of May. We are looking for a third parent volunteer. Please come to the PAC meeting March 30th, where we'll vote in the 3 parent reps.

TAX RECEIPTS: If you donated to the Direct Donation, your tax receipt is in the school office. Thank you again for your donation.

USED BADMINTON RACQUETS: If you have any used badminton racquets that are not being used please donate them to the school.

ABORIGINAL CELEBRATION General Gordon will be hosting its fifth annual Aboriginal Celebration on **Tuesday, April 7**. There will be some workshops and learning activities happening in the classrooms throughout the day.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

GENERAL GORDON COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT RIDE TO CONQUER CANCER

On behalf of Mary Locke, our well loved and trusted librarian who has taken a leave to fight off this horrible disease and on behalf of Robin Parr, on of our Grade 4/5 teacher who is well known for her vivacious bursting energy as she has come back to teaching our children after overcoming her recent bout with cancer.

One of our General Gordon parents has joined the Ride To Conquer Cancer, a unique two-day cycling event to take place June 19-21, 2009. Eva Sereda will cycle over 200 km from Vancouver to Seattle with other riders committed to the cause of finding a cure for cancer. The funds raised will directly support the BC Cancer Foundation in their cutting-edge cancer research, prevention and screening programs, as well as education, care and other cancer initiatives. Over the next few months, Eva will be fundraising and training for the ride to help conquer cancer. Almost everyone has been touched by cancer in some way in their lives, changing the world of our family and friends. You can join Eva in the Ride to Conquer Cancer by sponsoring her in this important and innovative fundraising event. In order to participate in the ride, Eva must raise a minimum of \$2500 for this event.

Please visit: http://www.conquercancer.ca/site/TR/Events/Vancouver2009?px=1768437&pg=personal&fr_id=1281 or visit www.conquercancer.ca click British Columbia, sponsor a participant, Eva Sereda and contribute to this great cause.

Thank you Mary and Robin for showing and sharing your strength and courage through such a difficult time.

Together, as a community, we can make a difference.

FRENCH CLASSES FOR STUDENTS: The Little Sorbonne school is offering French Lessons for children ages 8-12 in Kitsilano starting on Monday April 6 (for beginners) and Wednesday April 8 (for intermediates) from 4:00pm to 5:30pm and they will run every week for 10 weeks. The classes will take place in Kitsilano, in a classroom of St. Mark Anglican Church at 1805 Larch Street (Larch at 2nd). The cost for the 10 lessons (1.5 hours each) is \$185 (15 hours). The textbook must also be purchased at \$22.50. It is an excellent textbook which your child will be able to use all year round. We also supplement our classes with our own material, written by our teachers, which suits the needs of our students. Students also receive homework every week. Don't hesitate to call for more information at 778-330-5754.