

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

2009 April 17

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

Newsletter#15

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Saturday	April 18
Wednesday	April 22
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Friday	April 24
Monday	April 27
Thursday	April 30
Tuesday	May 5
Saturday	May 9

DI team in the provincials
Volunteer Tea (11:30-1:00pm)
Earth Day Assembly at 9:15am in the gym
Secretaries/Administrative Assistant's Day
Parent/Staff Mingle at Tatlows
PAC Meeting
Quebec students arrive
Whitecaps presentation at 1:00 for Gr. 4-7
SPRING FLING

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S DAY: Please take the time to say thank you to our wonderful admin assistants, Marilyn Grant, Meena Fakirani and Yvette Chamberlain. They work hard each and every day at making sure our children are safe, happy and looked after. They also take care of the staff and administration as well as parents and community friends. We are blessed at Gordon to have such welcoming friendly people in our office. Also welcome back to Meena!

VOLUNTEER TEA: The staff and students would like to honour all of our parents, relatives and friends who have helped to volunteer in our school. The time that you spend volunteering has a positive impact on our school and on our children's learning. We appreciate all you do for us and would like to invite you to come for some entertainment, food and drink on **Wednesday, April 22 from 11:30-1:00pm**. We will have the band and other students performing in the basement at 11:30 and at 12:00 we will congregate in the library for something to eat and drink. There will be child minding.

EARTH DAY: To celebrate Earth Day, General Gordon is having Earth Week next week. There will be many special themes and activities all week long, including a battery drive. Monday: Water Awareness Day/Tuesday: Garbage Free Lunch Day/Wednesday: Nothing New Day/Thursday: Walk or bike or bus to school/Friday: Unplugged Day. The assembly for Earth Day will be on Wednesday, April 22 at 9:15am.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION: General Gordon entered two DI teams into a competition. (A grade 4 & grade 5 team). Both teams performed very well and our grade 5 team won and will be participating in the provincials on **Saturday, April 18th**. We all wish them the best of luck and fun at the competition. Thank you to all the parents who have worked weekly with these two teams for several months. **Destination Imagination** is a community based, non-profit, volunteer driven educational organization which teaches young people from Kindergarten through University level the important skills needed for success in the 21st century. The format provides an opportunity for students to work in a team of up to seven students and they work through a series of creative problem solving strategies. They are given opportunities for improvisation, instant challenges and a chance to expand their creativity and knowledge. This program generally is run after school and by parents.

URGENT!!! REGISTRATION: Thank you for all your registrations. We will still be accepting registrations until April 24th and then accepting registrations until June 20th although you will not be guaranteed a spot.

BUDGET NEWS: The staff, students and administration at General Gordon would like to thank the parents for all of their advocating and support for our school and administrative staff. A number of parents attended the budget meeting and many more sent in their words of support to the school board. A special thank you to Charlotte and Ingrid who spent the time to write the submission piece that allowed our parents to speak at the budget meeting.

SPRING FLING: May 9th 3-8pm. **Gift baskets:** every class is being asked to put together a themed gift basket for a silent auction. Please get in touch with your class rep regarding the theme for your class. **Flea market:** we will be running a kids-only flea market this year. Start gathering kids toys and books to donate. **Activities:** if parents and/or students can run a game or activity for an hour or so, please sign up in the main hallway. Ideas include sport events, carnival games, crafts, music performances - anything you enjoy that would be fun for the community. Megan Abele is running a three-legged race, and requests old men's ties - please put them in the PAC box in the office. Elke Porter is organizing a dance - come to the classes to be in the performance (see below). **Food:** we will have M and M meats running a BarBQ and sushi made by Broadway Sushi. Parents and students interested in running a food stand, let us know. Ideas include lemonade stand, soup or chili stand. **Plant sale:** we will have our usual plant sale, including native plants. A pre-order form will be coming home next week. Profits will go to Gordon PAC. Profits from the cake walk will go to primary student programs. Contacts for any ideas or questions: Ingrid Sulston (604) 263 1920 or isulston@gmail.com or Jennifer Sears (604) 736 2932 or jennifersears@telus.net

DANCE CLASS: For Children ages 2 to 12. All welcome. Thursdays 3:30 pm in the Kindergarten Room. Dance at the Spring Fling (May 9th), European Festival (May 30th) and maybe in summer, too! Bring a bottle of water to classes! Call Elke at 604 828 8788 for details.

READ-A-THON WINNERS: Congratulations to Division 13 for logging the most hours for the ReadAthon. They won a pizza party. The ReadAthon raised nearly \$1000 for library books. Thank you!

LICE LOVE SPRING: The warmer weather helps many things flourish, including lice. More cases have been reported. Please continue to check your children and discourage sharing hats, brushes, combs, clips, pillows, blankets, etc. If it touches hair don't share.

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 Friday, April 24*. **SAFEWAY CARDS available any time.** If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

GRADE 6 FRENCH IMMERSION RAFFLE DRAW: Grade 6 French Immersion students and parents thank all those who contributed towards funding the Camp CLAN event this spring by buying raffle tickets. In all, 745 were sold. Merci beaucoup! Grand prize winners include Sheng Wu who wins an autographed Canucks hockey stick, Patricia Hook a Norco 20" mountain bike, and Edwin Chan the snowshoe experience package. Other winners include Andrew Jones, Joanne Rose (twice!), Ian Macphee, Avril Bain, Lisa Miller, Noel MacDonald, Lorelei Lowe, Diane Schmidt, Evelyn Yen, Cynthia Lewis, Petra Hart, Shane Grimm, Theresa Sheward, Sue Hyslop, Ian Logan, and John Caspar. Further prize details are available in the school office.

PAC MEETING: April 27 from 7:00-8:45- Agenda so far: Budget update and what it means for our school next year, proposals for changes to PAC exec and meeting schedule next year, spring fling organization. More agenda items to Ingrid (604) 263 1920 isulston@gmail.com. **Seeking parent(s) to oversee PAC social events next year:** The PAC Chair is looking for a parent(s) to oversee the social events for next year. Ingrid is willing to continue with communications (parent volunteer signup, new parents, website, PAC meetings, lobbying), but needs one or more parents to oversee social events such as the winter fair, movie nights, lantern festival, or whatever events we decide on for next year. We would like to work more closely with students on these events, so we have fewer, more popular events throughout the year. Please contact Ingrid (604) 263 1920 isulston@gmail.com or bring it up at the next PAC meeting.

GRADE 6 BABYSITTERS: Calling all Grade 6 students interested in babysitting! If you are a grade 6 student who would like to be a babysitter for the PAC meetings next year, please talk to Kyle Lessoway or Megan Low in Division 1. Kyle and Megan will be training next year's babysitters the evenings of April 27th and May 25th.

NEIGHBOURHOODS OF LEARNING: The parents voted in at the last PAC meeting and now attending the Neighbourhoods of Learning meetings are: Z Smith, Charlotte French, Bill Uhrich, Jennifer Sears, Diana Schmidt and Emily Pickett. The staff attending the meetings are: Margaret Davidson, Noreen Morris, Carl Atterton, Mary Locke, Catherine MacIntyre, Brenda Fenton, Robin Parr, Anthony Evangelista and Gail Johnson and Megan Low and Robin Caldwell as our student representatives.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DIGITAL ART AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY COURSES (Summer) for Kids: For the UBC courses for kids go to www.digitalmediaacademy.org. They will hold courses for kids ages 7-13, teenagers, and adults. Courses include Documentary filmmaking, digital photography, web design, 3D animation, game design and robotics. See Margaret if you are interested as she has some brochures that will take off \$100.00 off the course.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE SUMMER DAY CAMPS: Kids aged 9-12 will learn first aid, becoming a responsible babysitter, safety and a whole lot more. Emphasis will be on working with others and as a team. On the last day of the program, participants will take part in the First Aid Olympics. Included in this program and upon successful completion, students will receive certificates in Babysitting and Junior First Aid. Your choice of 2 dates but remember to REGISTER EARLY because SEATS ARE LIMITED. Dates available: July 6-10 or August 10-14 from 9:00-3:00pm. The cost is \$175.00 plus GST (lunches inclusive) For registration please call 604-321-2651.

KERRISDALE SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY: On Thursday, May 28, Kerrisdale Elementary School will be celebrating 100 years. Please come to the Open House from 4:00-8:00pm and enjoy the welcome ceremony at 5:30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please follow the 100 year link at www.kerrisdale.vsb.bc.ca for registration and event information or email kerrisdale100@gmail.com.

KITSILANO PAC UPDATE: The School Renewal/Seismic Mitigation Process for Kitsilano Secondary

Thank you to all those who attended the Open Houses and/or the Visioning Workshop in mid-February to consider the choices and challenges facing Kits Secondary as it enters the seismic mitigation process. Your support and keen interest in this community process, supported and facilitated by the Vancouver School Board, made for dynamic and inspiring dialogue, and greatly contributed to shaping the KitsPAC Vision for the future Kitsilano Secondary. We have major developments to report:

1. CitySpaces Report on the Kitsilano Visioning Event <http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca/downloads/SummaryofVisioningEvent.pdf>
2. KitsPAC Vision for Kitsilano Secondary <http://members.shaw.ca/YHT99/Kits-PAC-campbell-26feb09.pdf>
3. Presentation of KitsPAC Vision to our MLA Gordon Campbell, March 2, 2009

4. Presentation of Kits Vision to Planning & Facilities, Committee II, Vancouver School Board, April 7, 2009

For those who attended the Open Houses and/or the Visioning Workshop, we invite you to send us your comments on the facilitator's findings on the Visioning process and PAC survey results. Find it here: <http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca/downloads/SummaryofVisioningEvent.pdf> All comments will be discussed at the next KitsPAC meeting and included in an addendum to the report. Please forward your remarks to kitspac@hotmail.com

The KitsPAC formulated a Vision for Kitsilano Secondary that was endorsed by the Kits parent community on February 26, 2009. It calls for ensuring the best possible educational facilities, space allocations outside of current Ministry of Education standards, heritage retention of the 1927 Classroom Block and building the rest new, minimizing disruption during construction, and green design leadership as befits the community that was the birthplace of Greenpeace and the David Suzuki Foundation. For more details, please access the Vision at <http://members.shaw.ca/YHT99/Kits-PAC-campbell-26feb09.pdf> On March 2, 2009, a delegation of Kits parents presented the Vision to our MLA, Premier Gordon Campbell. He indicated his support for retention of the 1927 Classroom Block for school use and fully understood the very serious concerns regarding the disruption to the teaching and learning environment that construction causes. Premier Campbell will meet with KitsPAC in the near future to discuss progress made within the VSB and the Ministry of Education on the next steps for Kitsilano Secondary. On April 7, 2009, a Kits delegation of PAC executive members and teacher and student representatives made a presentation to Planning and Facilities, Committee II of the VSB. The PAC delegation gave background information on the Visioning process, thanked the VSB for supporting this community outreach process, discussed the PAC Vision, and also showed a short video which gives a taste of the type of discussions which took place during the Visioning Workshop. We welcome all comments on the various documents and developments reported in this update. Please forward them to kitspac@hotmail.com **Many thanks for your feedback! We look forward to updating you with further developments in the near future.**

OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, OUR FUTURE: Come to a debate on K-12 education featuring representatives of the four major parties on Monday, April 20 from 7:00-9:00pm at Kitsilano Secondary Auditorium.

DAYCARE SPACES AVAILABLE: There are spaces available in a family daycare a block from the school. Children ages 0-5 years are accepted. For more information contact Niloofar at (604) 264 7054.