

# 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 May 1

Newsletter#16

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Tuesday	May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Thursday	May 7 <sup>th</sup>
Saturday	May 9
Wednesday	May 13 <sup>th</sup>
Friday	May 15
Monday	May 18 <sup>th</sup>
Monday	May 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Friday	May 29 <sup>th</sup>

Whitecaps presentation at 1:00 for Gr. 4-7  
District Earthquake Drill  
SPRING FLING  
Full school day 8:40-3:05 (modified schedule due to Sports Day)  
Sports Day 8:40-12:05  
Victoria Day Holiday (school is closed)  
PAC meeting 6:45-8:45  
PAC/Staff Mingle

**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

**Our Vice Principal position has been saved!** A huge THANK YOU for all your letters to the Trustees which helped make this happen, and particularly to Charlotte French and Kristine Chapman who presented at Board meetings. The final 2009-2010 budget reinstated the VP positions at Gordon and two other elementary schools. Thank you Marilyn Grant and Margaret Davidson for your hard work in chasing our student numbers up above 400 for next year. The Trustees said that the positions had been reinstated because of enrolling numbers, and because of the strong public response. Thank you

**Slide News** Our beloved slide on the east stairwell may be in need of significant repairs to comply with current safety standards. We are working with our Grounds & Maintenance Division to assess the slide and determine next steps. We are communicating with PAC on with the latest updates and will keep you informed. You are welcome to contact the school office for more information.

**SPRING FLING:** Only a week to go until the Spring Fling. May 9th 3-8pm on the school grounds. Details below, and on a flyer sent home, posted on the website at <http://www.gordonelementary.ca/sites/default/files/FirstNoticeHome.pdf>

**Plant sale** deadline for pre-orders is May 7th. Pre-order forms on the sheet above and in the school office. Leave your order in the PAC box in the office.

**Bring in items:**

Silent Auction gift baskets. Deadline May 6th. Check with your class rep for your theme. Questions to Jennifer Sears 604 736 2932 or [jennifarsears@telus.net](mailto:jennifarsears@telus.net)

Kids Flea Market. Leave 'gently used' children and babies items outside the office. Deadline is May 8th. Contact Emily Pickett 604 732-0993 or [erpickett@gmail.com](mailto:erpickett@gmail.com)

Cake Walk. Bring your cakes to the Spring Fling by 3:30pm.

**Help run the events** for an hour. Either man an event for an hour that is already planned (sign up in in the main hallway, or contact Tricia Wallace at 604 785 9259). Or run your own game, craft or sport for an hour (sign up in the main hallway or contact Ingrid Sulston at 604 263 1920 or [isulston@gmail.com](mailto:isulston@gmail.com)).

Profits will go to Gordon PAC, and individual school-affiliated groups.

**SPORTS DAY:** Sports Day is coming up on Friday, May 15 from 8:40-12:05 pm. This year's theme is *The Olympics*. The PAC is looking for volunteers to help with various Sports Day jobs. The sign up sheet will be placed in the front hallway next week. Please help us out and take part in the celebration of sports and fun at General Gordon. Please contact school teacher Tim Eves or PAC chair Ingrid Sulston for further information .

### **District Earthquake Drill, Thursday, May 7 2:00pm**



May is the month of emergency preparedness. All Vancouver Schools will participate in an emergency preparedness exercise - rain or shine whereby the entire school is evacuated and we all go through a mock "earthquake" scenario. Classroom teachers and students will be discussing the importance of this drill and will continue to practice the "Duck, Cover and Hold" strategy so that everyone will know what to do on the day of the practice.

We will evacuate the school at approximately 2:00 pm that day and assemble on the field. Students will be outside for approximately 45 minutes - however should the weather be inclement, then a shortened time outside will take place.

More information about personal emergency preparedness is available at [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca) and [www.adventuresmart.ca](http://www.adventuresmart.ca)  
Families should plan a drill for their own homes and talk about how the family will reconnect in the event of an emergency.

### **Help keep our school grounds clean and safe**

If you live near the school and hear or see groups of people destroying or defacing school property, please call the police non-emergency line at (604) 717 3321. You can call any time. They will ask for your name and address for their own records. If many of us call, we can hope to keep the school grounds and equipment clean and safe this season. Thank you.

**REGISTRATION:** Thank you for all your registrations. We will receive registrations until June 20<sup>th</sup> if you live in our Gordon neighbourhood however; we have to waitlist students if our class sizes reach the district maximums.

**EARTH DAY:** Thank you to Karen Pegg who organized a wonderful Earth Day assembly and ongoing weekly activities.

**DESTINATION IMAGINATION:** This year two teams from General Gordon had the opportunity to participate in Destination Imagination. DI is a community based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving and teamwork. The kids worked hard for several months, researching their topic, creating a play and building the set. They had an opportunity to present their solutions at the Regional Tournament, and the grade 5 team will be going on to represent General Gordon at Global Finals in Tennessee at the end of May! The groups had a great time and learned a lot about working together as a team,

We are hoping to have more teams represent GG next year. All you need are enthusiastic parent volunteers to facilitate the program, and a group of 7 kids. Registration for the teams was provided for a 'pilot initiative' to General Gordon from District Learning Services. The program is run by parent volunteers. If you are interested in hearing more about DI or are interested in leading a group next year please contact Kristine Chapman or Andrea Chapman who facilitated the grade 5 and grade 4 teams this year. Both felt that the program was worthwhile and encourage others to get involved. You can also check out the DI web site for more information at <http://www.idodi.org/>. Good luck in the Global Finals to our grade 5 team!

**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.

**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. SAFEWAY CARDS 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)

### **Grade 7 Articulation News to Kits High School:**

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> English 8 Enrichment Placement Exam, 3:30 pm Kits Cafeteria

Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> Math 8 Enrichment Placement Exam, 3:30 pm Kits Cafeteria

**PAC MEETING: May 25<sup>th</sup> 6:45-8:45pm.** Free babysitting. Agenda items to Ingrid (604) 263 1920 [isulston@gmail.com](mailto:isulston@gmail.com). Ingrid is looking for a parent(s) to oversee the social events for next year. She 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. Please contact Ingrid (604) 263 1920 [isulston@gmail.com](mailto: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 evening of May 25th.

### **Institut secondaire Keranna:**

Welcome to our Quebec exchange students who arrived Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for a week of activities with our Grade 7 French Immersion students. Thank you to all the parents and students in Divisions 3 & 4 for hosting the Quebec students and helping plan and supervise the week long activities. A special thanks too for classroom teachers, Frederick and David and principal, Margaret for the many extra hours and work it took them to make the exchange such a valuable learning opportunity.

## **Volunteer Thank you:**

Thank you to all parents and community members who have so graciously volunteered their help through the school year at our school.

Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for fortune

It's not for fame

It's not for only personal gain

It's not for love of fellow man

Or just to lend a helping hand

It's not for medals worn with pride

It's for the feeling deep inside

Of helping others far and near

That makes you want to Volunteer.

(author unknown)

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Our schoolwide theme for this month is, '**Being thoughtful**'. Divisions 5 & 10 will represent their work.

**TRACK & FIELD Team:** Practices are held Mondays and Wednesdays for grades 4-7 students. Thanks go to teacher Miles Patrick for coaching and coordinating the team along with several keen Gordon teachers.

**FLAG FOOTBALL:** Thanks to teacher Tim Eves who holds practice on Wednesday afternoon with Tyrone Crews. Open to grade 5-7 students.

**NEIGHBOURHOODS OF LEARNING:** Next meeting for the Gordon representative committee is Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **FREE Summer School with VSB! Registration Opens May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Choose from a wide range of FREE summer courses with the VSB. This year, we also offer skill development courses for a fee. Or, you can combine both FREE courses and fee paying courses to fill up your schedule. Once again, the VSB will be offering an extensive array of courses available to meet every students' needs, from the gifted to the athletic, from the artistic to those who thrive with hands-on projects. Courses at every grade level are offered throughout the city. Taught by dedicated, enthusiastic, qualified teachers and instructors, Vancouver Summer School options are a wonderful way for children to continue learning during the summer. Summer school students spend their time in a relaxed yet high quality learning environment under the care of educational professionals. Check our website, [www.continuinged.ca](http://www.continuinged.ca), to register online (PEN # required – ask at your home school) or call 604 713-4550 for course details and registration.

The dates and locations of this year's sessions are:

July 6 – July 31: Jamieson, Nelson, Shaughnessy, and Fleming

July 22 – August 19: Quilchena, Tecumseh

July 7 – July 24: MacKenzie – Gifted/ Challenge Program

***Registration begins May 4th by:***

Phone: 604.713.4550 Fax: 604.713.4530. In person: 1580 W. Broadway. Mail In: VSB – CIE, 1580 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6J 5K8

***Please note: registration online requires a student PEN (Personal Education Number) for all courses. Register early!***

### **Point Grey Soccer**

Register online at Point Grey Soccer [www.pointgreysoccer.ca/registration/](http://www.pointgreysoccer.ca/registration/) Registration before May 31 to qualifies for the Early-Bird Discount. Early-Bird registration provides a discount of \$40.00 per child (Mini Program) or \$20 per child (Micro and Divisional Program), eligibility to win one of two iPod Nanos, as well as a teammate request. Late registrations are accepted but without a discount and no guarantees on teammate requests. 2009/2010 Fee Schedule Micro Soccer (for players born in 2004): \$153 EarlyBird fee until May 31st \$173 from June 1st Mini Soccer (for players born from 2000 to 2003): \$153 EarlyBird fee until May 31st \$193 from June 1st Divisional Soccer (for players born in 1999 and earlier): \$193 EarlyBird fee until May 31st \$213 from June 1st Any questions regarding registration may be sent to Barbara Bradbury, Club Registrar, at [registrar@pointgreysoccer.ca](mailto:registrar@pointgreysoccer.ca)

### **Kerrisdale's Centennial Anniversary**

**All former staff and students please join us for our 100 Year Celebration on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 pm**

**To register, please follow link on <http://kerrisdale.vsb.bc.ca>**

### **Take part in Car Free Block Party Day in Kitsilano: June 14 2009**

We encourage you to join the community in celebrating Car Free Day by hosting a block party on your street on June 14th.

Last year 20 Kitsilano blocks hosted parties on Car Free Day, and this year we hope to get 50 blocks involved. Join us in building closer ties with neighbours while enjoying car free streets! To find out more, visit [www.carfreevancouver.org/location/kitsilano](http://www.carfreevancouver.org/location/kitsilano) or attend the block party host's planning workshop, **Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 11:00 to 12:30 at SPEC (2150 Maple Street).

**N1H1 influenza:** Diligent hand washing continues to be the most effective way to prevent the spread of flu viruses to individuals.

For continued updates and information on the recent influenza outbreak please note the following links:

**HealthLinkBC online:** [www.HealthLinkBC.ca](http://www.HealthLinkBC.ca) or by telephone by dialling: 8-1-1. (Translation services are available on the website)

**BC Communicable Disease Control** [www.bccdc.org](http://www.bccdc.org)

**Vancouver Coastal Health Authority** [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)