

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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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 22

Newsletter#17

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	May 25 th	PAC meeting 6:45-8:45pm
Friday	May 29 th	PAC/Staff Mingle
Tuesday	June 2	Grade 6 Fr. Immersion classes to Camp Clan
Thursday	June 4	Division 2 to overnight camp at Science World
Wednesday	June 10	Welcome to Kindergarten event 10:00-12:00
Wednesday	June 10	Staff Appreciation Lunch
Monday	June 15	Immunization for Grade 6/K students (date changed)
Tuesday	June 16	Grade 7 leaving ceremony
Friday	June 19	Deadline for parent letters regarding class placement
Monday	June 22	Welcome to new Grade 6 French Immersion students
Tuesday	June 23	Beach Day
Wednesday	June 24	Farewell Assembly
Thursday	June 25	Last day of school (Report cards home)

2009-2010 General Gordon School Calendar

Please check the calendar for all the holidays and professional development days for next year. If you have questions about the calendar please see Ms. Davidson. The calendar will be posted on the website next week.

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

2009-2010 School Organization: Gordon staff will soon begin to organize classes for the 2009-2010 school year. The professional staff at the school take considerable care in determining the placement of students in classes. There are many factors that are important considerations in this process. It is hoped that the following notes will help parents/guardians better understand how student placement is determined.

The number of teachers allocated to General Gordon is determined by a formula that is established by the Human Resources Division of the Vancouver Board of Education. The number of students in the school determines the number of teachers and classes. Sometimes combination classes are an organizational necessity based on student numbers and contractual agreement. Sometimes the school makes a philosophical choice to have combination classes based on the cognitive/social/emotional needs of the students. Our objective is to create a balance of strengths for each area in each class. In determining the placement of students in classes, staff use the following criteria:

- All classes will be heterogeneously organized with regard to students' intellectual development-staff focus very carefully on the learning needs of each child

- All classes will be heterogeneously organized with regard to students' emotional and social development, with an emphasis on student independence and sense of responsibility
- All classes will be heterogeneously organized with regard to students' facility with English language
- As possible, classes will contain relatively equal numbers of girls and boys
- Consideration will be given to students who should be together to foster peer relationships, friendships, etc
- Consideration will be given to the students who should not be together because of negative interactions
- Consideration will be given to the matching of teaching and learning styles
- Consideration will be given to the matching of teacher/student personalities, as well as the matching of teacher/parent/guardian personalities
- Consideration will be given to the benefits derived by a student who is one of the older/younger students in the class
- Consideration will be given to parent/guardian input

Sometimes parents are able to provide the school with additional important information that should be considered in determining a student's placement. Should you wish to provide the school with extra information, please send a letter addressed to the principal, Margaret Davidson, by Friday, June 19. **The information in a letter should focus on some important personal or educational information that will assist staff with placement decisions rather than being a request for placement with a specific teacher. Fundamentally, the final decision for student placement is a school-based, professional decision; however, input to help determine that decision is welcome. If you have questions about the planning for the 2009-2010 school year please do not hesitate to contact the Principal.**

Moving During the Summer? Returning Late in September?: Due to limited space and resources all student attendance must be verified by noon Wednesday, September 9, 2009; otherwise, spaces will be filled by students on the waitlist. If your child/children will not be returning to Gordon School in September 2009, please let the office know immediately (if you haven't already done so- a letter needs to be filled out in order to keep the students' space). This information assists us in planning appropriately for staffing for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are returning to school after the first week of September, please come to the office now to fill in a "Return Late to School" form. We need this information to save a place if your child is not counted on attendance lists 2009, September 8.

Call for Photos for 2009 School Slide Show: Have any great digital photos of school events or trips? We would love to include them in our end of the year slide show. Any school related photos from September 2008 to the present are welcome (i.e. class activities, Winter Concert, school teams, Spring Fling, the Talent Show, Sports Day, etc.) If you have 5 photos or less, feel free to e-mail the full resolution photos to Bernard (Grade 6 teacher) at bwana@vsb.bc.ca. Ideally, it would be great if you could leave a cd, a memory card or a memory stick with Bernard and he will get it back to you the same day or the day after. Please label your storage device carefully or put it in an envelope. Thanks!

Student Vote: General Gordon students got on board with the election and voted. Here are their results along with the provincial and Point Grey district results. Our *Gordon results* were as follows: Green Party with 116 votes; NDP with 99 votes; Liberal with 64 votes and Sex Party with 29 votes. (1st Past Post 154 votes & BCSTV 126 votes).

Point Grey District results were as follows: NDP with 294 votes; Liberals with 277 votes; Green Party with 259 votes and Sex Party with 133 votes. (1st Past Post 450 & BCSTV 399 votes).

Over 60000 BC students voted and the *provincial results* were: B.C. NDP with 44 candidates elected, B.C. Liberals with 26 candidates elected, Green Party of B.C. with 11 candidates elected and Sex Party with 1 candidate elected. (1st Past Post 64 districts in favour & BCSTV 17 districts in favour).

Slide News Our beloved slide on the east stairwell is in need of repairs. Former welding repairs have broken free, leaving small holes in the slide. IF major repairs are required it must be updated to current safety standards, which is not possible in this location. Discussions with the VSB are underway to see what can be done. It has been conveyed how unique and well-loved this slide is in the community and what a loss it would be to have it removed.

Welcome to Kindergarten: Seeking current Kindergarten and Grade 1 parents who would like to help with welcoming new kindergarten families to Gordon at the Welcome to Kindergarten Event on Wednesday, June 10th from 10:00-12:00. Please let Ms. Davidson know if you are able to volunteer.

GIFT CARDS: Orders are *due on Friday, May 29*. Questions? Please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

PAC Meeting: The last PAC meeting of the year is May 25th 6:45pm-8:45pm in the library. Free babysitting available in a nearby classroom. Agenda: 1. Vote in next years PAC exec and rep positions. 2. Update on Big Slide news. 3. Review policy on PAC's support of Gordon school teams and groups; vote on Destination Imagination group's request for financial support. 4. Visit by the consultants on the Neighbourhoods of Learning seismic project. They will briefly present on the process, then seek our comments and ideas on learning and community spaces in the renewed school, which will help shape a public visioning meeting. Questions to Ingrid (604) 263 1920 isulston@gmail.com.

FREE Summer School with VSB! Registration Opens May 4th

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.continuing.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!***

Neighbourhoods of Learning: Next meeting for the Gordon representative committee is Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bike ride to conquer cancer. As some of you already know, one of our General Gordon parents, Eva Sereda, has joined the Ride to Conquer Cancer which is a two day bicycle ride from Vancouver to Seattle beginning June 20th. Participants must raise a minimum of \$2500 which goes directly to the BC Cancer Foundation to support research, prevention and screening programs, education, care and other cancer initiatives. We are all touched by this disease, including two teachers in our school community, Mary Locke and Robin Parr. We need to work together to continue to find ways to support on going research. Please join Eva by sponsoring her in this important and innovative fundraising event by following this link: www.conquercancer.ca/goto/evasereda.com Thanks to all the General Gordon families who have already contributed to this cause. TOGETHER WE CAN make a difference.

H1N1 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 or by telephone by dialling: 8-1-1. (Translation services are available on the website)

BC Communicable Disease Control www.bccdc.org

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority www.vch.ca

Science Fair Fun Run: The run will take place on Sunday, May 31st. Go to www.sciencefairs.ca for more information.

Highland Dance Lessons: Taught by a certified Scottish Official Board Teacher and Judge. Preparation for competition, exam work as well as Community performances. Beginners through advanced welcome. Call Cheryl at 604-325-4002. Classes commence in the fall.

VanDusen Botanical Garden Summer Nature Camps: For ages 4-10 in July and August. For information and registration contact: Children and Families Section of www.vandusengarden.org 604-718-5898 or summercamps@vandusen.org.

Geering Up! UBC Engineering & Science for Kids: GEERing Up! UBC Engineering & Science for Kids is pleased to offer 26 summer day camps at UBC's Point Grey Campus this year. Camps are 1 week long, from 9am to 3pm with optional before care (8:30am to 9:00am) and after care (3:00pm to 4:00pm). GEERing Up! also offers bursaries to campers with a demonstrated financial need. For more information about the program, the camps offered, and our bursary fund, please visit www.geeringup.apsc.ubc.ca <<http://www.geeringup.apsc.ubc.ca>> or call (604)822-2858.