

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
2896 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1
☎713-5403 Fax 713-5405

Website: 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 June 22

Newsletter#19

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	June 22
Tuesday	June 23
Wednesday	June 24
Thursday	June 25

Welcome to new Grade 6 French Immersion students
Beach Day
Farewell Assembly
Last day of school (Report cards home) & Parent/Staff Mingle at Tatlows

2009-2010 General Gordon School Calendar

The school calendar for next year was attached to the last newsletter, and is also posted on the website at <http://www.gordonelementary.ca/sites/default/files/2009-2010VSBcalendar.pdf>

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

Staff Leaving: We have many staff leaving this year for a variety of reasons. We wish all of them well in their new adventures: Tim Eves, Karen Pegg, Dan Graves, Stella Lee, David Minichiello, Natasha Tousaw, Anjula Joshi, Deni Mori, Nikki Sellars and Carol Zrymiak.

Lost and Found! Lost and Found is full! If you are missing any items, please check the Lost and Found area (basement level, by elevator). All items will be removed and **donated to charity on the morning of Thursday, June 25th**. Many thanks!

Mathematica Contests: The students in our MACC class participated in the Mathematica contests. The following are the different contests: Byron-Germain (Gr.4), Fibonacci (Gr. 5), Pythagoras (Gr. 6), Euler (Gr. 7) contests. All the VSB MACC classes had the Provincial Champions for Grades 4, 6, & 7 (Top student score in BC). All the participating Grade 4 MACC students came in 3rd in Canada as a group (out of 417 participating schools). Congratulations to Molly MacLeay and Sandy Fogarassy who came in 21st and Jared Wou, Derek Lin and Daniel Levy who came in 62nd which is the same as 3rd and 4th as many students tied.

Slide News We have been working with our Grounds & Maintenance Division to assess the slide and determine the next steps. We have been informed that the large metal slide located on the stairs on the west side of the building is in need of major repair work. The work would require the slide to be removed from its present location in order to repair. When major repairs are performed on playground equipment, CSA standards require that the grounds department at the schoolboard reinstall the equipment to meet today's CSA standards. According to the assessment of the slide there is no possible way for them to reinstall the slide and meet the standards. There was a second assessment from a third party, outside of the VSB (Ryan Stubbings and Jeff Musson of Habitat) who also inspected the slide to see if there was anyway to save it and make it safe. They feel it does not meet CSA by failing in the following areas:

Section 14.5.2 - the protective surfacing needs to extend 94.49 inches from the end of the slide which is not present on this slide

Section 15.5.4.1 - there are to be handrails to facilitate the transition from standing to sitting which are not present

Section 15.5.4.2 - there is to be a means to channel the user into a sitting position which is not present

Section 15.5.5.6 - slides are to have a sidewall that is a minimum of 3.94 inches high and the ones on this slide are only 3 inches

The district adopted the CSA (Z614-07) playground standards some time ago and as a result they are not able to reopen the slide.

Neighbourhoods of Learning: There will be a meeting with Keith Miller from the Ministry on June 24th. Two staff members and two parents will be meeting voice some of the concerns that both the staff and parents and community have. These members are from the Representative Team and they will then communicate the information to the staff, PAC and community.

Neighbourhoods of Learning project: calling all opinion holders

The consultants on the NoL project want parental feedback in preparation for the upcoming public visioning session. Please fill out the form attached to this newsletter. As detailed at the bottom you can fax it, email it, or drop it in the box in the school hallway by the end of the school year. It is not necessary to respond to the first part of the comment form if you are unable, but the second part "***Please provide any additional feedback.***" is important to make sure that your opinions, values and concerns are heard. For example, some values that emerged from the VSB visioning session were sustainability, Connecting indoor/outdoor spaces, and Heritage. Thank you for taking time to help shape the future of Gordon.

Thank you parents from PAC: Thank you parents for your volunteer time at Gordon this year. Our parties and fundraisers, community campaigns and lobbying efforts made a big difference for the spirit and success of our school this year. I hope you have a great summer and see you in the fall. Ingrid (PAC Chair)

Anyone missing a red cart? A beautiful red cart with wooden runners and a taped handle was left after the Spring Fling. Is it yours? Ingrid is taking care of it. Call (604) 263 1920 or email isulston@gmail.com to get it back.

Gordon T shirts for sale: We have a few kids T-shirts remaining from the Spring Fling sale. They are screen printed with the Gordon penguin logo. Come to the office to see and buy them. \$15 each - cash or cheques written to Gordon Elementary PAC.

Facilities Work at Gordon: During the summer, Vancouver School Board Facilities will begin an asbestos abatement project in the school. The project will be carried out to Workers' Compensation Board regulations and our own stringent project guidelines. The area they will be working on is a window on the north side of the basement. JKC has been notified and they do not use that area in the summer months. If you have any questions please feel free to call Craig Stewart at the schoolboard at 604-713-5720.

Gordon Football Team: : Gordon Eagles played in the VSB Football Championship tournament on June 12th at Moberly school. Gordon was well-represented by two teams including students from Grades 5-7. The 'A' team won two games and advanced to the semi-finals losing to the eventual tourney champs, Moberly. Congratulations to all our Gordon footballers for their hard work and practice. A special thanks to Tim Eves who volunteered his time to coach along with Ty Crews.

Teacher appreciation lunch: All the staff at General Gordon would like to thank all the parents that organized an amazing lunch that was delicious and beautifully set up.

Parent & Staff Mingle Change of Date: Parent & Staff Mingle will be held at Tatlows on Thursday, June 25th.

Summer without Lice? The summer brings opportunities to travel, have new experiences and make new friends.....a perfect time to catch lice without knowing. Keep up the head checks in the summer and have more time to enjoy and a start September with a lice free school. Lice don't take a summer vacation.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer Programs at the Lyceum 2009: For more information e-mail: lyceum@christiannehayward.com Web: www.christiannehayward.com or phone 604-733-1356.

CISV Vancouver: CISV is a worldwide volunteer organization promoting cross-cultural friendship and understanding through children. CISV Vancouver, the local chapter, is hosting a "Village" summer peace camp for 48 eleven-year-old youth from 12 countries around the world. The premise is that teaching children to live together as friends can create true and lasting global peace. In return for our hosting camps locally, children from the lower mainland are invited to participate in camps all over the globe. During the Village, we'll have an Open Day on Friday **July 17th**, where we invite members of our communities in to see what CISV is all about! On **September 19th**, we have our Information Session for families interested in CISV. This is followed by our Peace Night Potluck, when all of the youth from our chapter who travelled over the summer, give a presentation about their summer experience. This summer, for example, our children will travel to the Philippines (15 year olds), Thailand (14 year olds), Ohio (11 year olds), Austria (15 year olds), Bogotá (12 and 13 year olds) and China (11 year olds) on programs. And during the year, we host two weekend long mini-camps, for youth 10+, which are designed to introduce new members to CISV and to simulate some of the content and programming of CISV's international programs. Our fall mini-camp will be held on the weekend of **16 – 18 October**. Please check out our website www.cisvvancouver.com for further details. Blair Lockhart, Chair, CISV Vancouver Chapter

*Have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer!!!!
From all the staff at General Gordon!!!!*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NCLD – General Gordon PAC Meeting – May 25, 2009

Your thoughts are important to us so please take a moment to complete this comment form.

Are there any additional uses, programs or organizations/agencies that you feel would enhance the future General Gordon Neighbourhood Centre of Learning and Development?

Uses: _____

Programs: _____

Organizations: _____

Other: _____

Please provide any additional feedback or comments about the NCLD process and/or project.

Comments provided will help define future processes that seek to define a NCLD at other locations:

Please return the Comment Sheets to the DROP BOX or by fax or email (see below)

For further information, please feel free to contact **Blaire Chisholm** or **Laurie Schmidt** of

Brook + Associates:

Suite 410, 535 Thurlow Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 3L2

T: 731-9053 F: 731-9075

E: bchisholm@brookdev.com or lschmidt@brookdev.com

**Use other side of page for additional comments*