

# Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School  
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**Safe Arrival ☎ 713-5403**

Principal: Margaret Davidson  
Associate Superintendent: Lynn Green  
Trustee: Patti Bacchus

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

2009 September 24

Newsletter #02

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friday	September 25	Terry Fox Run
Friday	September 25	Parent/Staff Mingle at Tatlows
Monday	September 28	PAC Meeting at 6:45pm (Library)
Monday	September 28	Junior Boys Soccer Game at Kerrisdale
Tuesday	September 29	Me to We Day
Tuesday	September 29	First Cross-Country Meet
Wednesday	September 30	Senior Boys Soccer Game at Southlands
Friday	October 9	Photo Day

**LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER:** This will be the last paper newsletter sent home to every child. If you would like to receive a paper newsletter in the future, please check the appropriate box on the "Communications between home and school" sheet sent home with students. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, sign up at [www.gordonelementary.ca/node/59](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/59). You can receive it both ways if you like. Also a school calendar and information sheets will be coming home with every student this week. Please fill out and return the stapled information sheets to your child's teacher by Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you!

## SCHOOL NEWS

**PAC:** *Our first PAC meeting is Monday Sept 28th, 6:45-8:45pm in the library.* Come to the first meeting to hear more about what we do, bring your questions and comments, and to help us start to plan parents' involvement in the school this year. Childcare for you children available for free in a nearby classroom by Grade 7 students.

**GRADE 7 STUDENTS:** Are you interested in doing childcare for our PAC meetings? You will need to take a babysitting course at Kit's community centre or an equivalent course. Leave your name and division in the PAC box in the office.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR:** The Gordon Community would like to extend a large **THANK YOU** to *Skip and Heather Young* for putting together our school calendar and taking pictures of our students' amazing artwork.

**SCHOOL FEES** Please send a cheque or money to your child's classroom teacher to pay for school supplies. These supplies include pencils, pens, glue sticks, exercise books, duotangs, and art supplies that are shared in the classroom. Students in Grades 1-7 need to pay \$25.00 and students in Kindergarten bring in \$12.50. **Please send the money by Friday, October 2.** Please be reminded that students will not be denied supplies or an opportunity to participate in school activities if paying fees is a hardship. Please speak to Ms Davidson if this is a concern.

**TERRY FOX RUN** We will be having the Terry Fox run on Friday, September 25 from 2:00-3:00pm. We would like to encourage families to come out and walk or run with the school. Thank you to parents who indicated that they would like to help out with the Terry Fox walk. Any other parents interested in chaperoning the route that the children take please let Ingrid know. (604) 263 1920 or [isulston@gmail.com](mailto:isulston@gmail.com) and sign up on the parent board in the main hallway. Viki Rassias and Gail Johnson are the staff that are organizing our Terry Fox Run.

**TRAFFIC/SAFETY:** Thanks to our neighbourhood community we have some wonderful curbs and paved roads on Bayswater. In the next two weeks they will be working on speed bumps to slow down the traffic. Please be mindful when dropping off your child/ren and picking them up, especially on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue where the streets are so narrow.

**LIBRARY NEWS:** Welcome back to another year of reading! The library has begun orientation classes. These are familiarization sessions for every class. After that, the library will be fully open. This will be some time next week. I will keep you posted. If you like to be around books, please consider volunteering in the school library. There is usually a lot to be done, generally involving the shelving and taping of books. Please contact me if you are interested. Thank you! Mary Locke.

**ATHLETICS:** *Cross-Country* has started at General Gordon. Primary students are welcome to come and practice on Mondays and Fridays (this is a change) at 12:20 in the gym and intermediate students will be running in the morning on Mondays and Thursdays starting at 8:00am in the gym. Forms for sign up are in the office. Students can also participate in the meets after school. Dates for those are in the notice. We encourage parents to come out and run and also come to the meets to cheer on our Gordon School athletes. We have *Junior and Senior Soccer teams* thanks to Ms. Kemp and Kevin Washbrook and Carl Atterton and Frederic Bilodeau. Junior Boys games are played on Mondays after school and Senior Boys games are played on Wednesdays. On Thursdays at 12:20 Mike will be working with *student leaders* in grades 5 & 6 teaching them games that they will be able to teach to younger students.

**BAND:** Band is starting up again! Classes are on Wednesdays after school. Beginners welcome! For more information and to sign up, please call Dylan Cramer at 604-318-1157 or e-mail Dylan at [drccramer@shaw.ca](mailto:drccramer@shaw.ca)

**CHESS CLUB:** Chess club will be on Thursdays at 12:20 in rooms 219. Everyone welcome!

**GRADE EIGHT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS:** Information will be coming home to Grade 7 students with dates for information meetings around alternative programs (mini schools). Please also refer to the Options brochure available on the website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/vsbprograms/kto12/apfe/default.htm>.

**PAC/STAFF MINGLE:** The last Friday of every month, all parents and staff are invited to mingle over a drink. Meet after school from about 3:15pm onwards at Tatlow's Bar (2744 West 4<sup>th</sup>). This month's mingle is on Friday, Sept. 25.

**NO CHILD WITHOUT:** No Child Without is a community-based charitable program that offers all elementary school aged children with medical conditions or allergies, free MedicAlert protection. It has been created in response to the increased incidences of childhood asthma, diabetes, allergies and other medical conditions. This program is for school aged children ages 4-14. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. Please watch for more info coming home soon.

**MEET THE TEACHER BBQ:** What a great success! A big thank you to all the parents who helped to organize this event. Also thank you to Olivia Milne, Bahar Gharion, Savannah Sears, and Sofie Evans who performed a hula routine for our slide dedication and to Joel Schabas and Michael Burnyeat who performed a duet playing a violin and cello.

**RECYCLING:** Our recycling is up and running so parents can bring in their containers again. For new families, our recycling containers are by the woodworking room in the basement of the school. Each container is self-explanatory.

**SHOPPING FUNDRAISER:** Gordon PAC buys shopping cards at a discount of 2-7.5% depending on the retailer. PAC sells the cards at face value. The money earned goes into PAC funds to be used for "extras" for the school. Use these shopping cards instead of cash when you shop. 100 families @ 200.00/month could earn \$9000 in 9 months. Order forms in the School Office, the Entry Hall or from the website [www.gordonelementary.ca/](http://www.gordonelementary.ca/) **Orders due last Friday of the month: September 25; October 30; Nov. 27.** Questions? Contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email [dmschmidt@shaw.ca](mailto:dmschmidt@shaw.ca) **STANDING ORDERS ACCEPTED**

### **ANAPHALAXIS (PEANUT/FISH/ BEE STINGS ALLERGY)**

#### **Important Notice re: PEANUT ALLERGY (anaphylaxis)**

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction, which requires immediate treatment to prevent sudden death from suffocation or cardiac arrest. *One of the life threatening allergens is peanuts.* We have a few students in our school that have peanut allergies. *We have a few students in the school who have peanut allergies that are life threatening.* Not only is the direct ingestion of nuts life threatening, but also contact with peanuts. **We are asking our school community to please AVOID snacks and luncheons containing nut products.** We would like our school community to be "allergy aware" and work together to minimize the risk of exposure for the allergic child.

*The treatment if the child is exposed to peanuts is to call 911 immediately and use an "epipen."* The community nurse, Emily Malnis will be do a review workshop with the staff on how to use the epipen. There is an epipen in the child's classroom and in the medical office. The Ministry of Education's publication *Life-Threatening Food Allergies in School and Child Care Settings* lists great ideas for nutritious no-nut lunches and snacks, a few of which we include here:

- String cheese or cheese & crackers, celery or bread stick wrapped in swiss cheese
- Raisins, dried apricots, fruit leather, salads (pasta, mixed bean, potato, bulgur wheat)
- Noodles, carrot sticks or baby carrots; hummus or other dip with veggies, macaroni and cheese, pizza
- Pepperoni stick or beef jerky, animal crackers, graham wafers, yoghurt drink or chocolate milk

The school and particularly the families of our anaphylactic students, thank all students, parents and staff for their cooperation and support.

**CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!** Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is a non-profit parent volunteer organization that supports French language learning in Canada. Your local Vancouver North chapter supports your child's experience with learning French by \*advocating\* with the Vancouver School Board and the provincial government, \*enriching\* in-school programs by supporting extracurricular activities, and \*informing\* you about local events and sources of interest, along with how to help your child succeed in French. Please see the national ([www.cpf.ca](http://www.cpf.ca) <<http://www.cpf.ca>>), provincial ([www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca) <<http://www.cpf.bc.ca>>), and chapter websites ([www.cpf.bc.ca/vannorth](http://www.cpf.bc.ca/vannorth) <<http://www.cpf.bc.ca/vannorth>>) to learn more, or to become a member, visit [www.cpf.ca/eng/about-join-form.html](http://www.cpf.ca/eng/about-join-form.html) <<http://www.cpf.ca/eng/about-join-form.html>>. If you join before October 31, 90% of your dues return to your local chapter. Help us keep French language education in Vancouver strong! Thank you to our Gordon parent Rosita Di Fruscia who is our school rep for CPF.

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL TEAM :** The Gordon Community School team is made up of a Director-Leslie Grant Smith, a teacher – Kim Doge, a programmer- Michael Kulik and a youth and family worker – Lisa Janco. This group works with two High Schools and all the elementary schools attached to them. They will be supporting our school by offering a variety of programs for children.

- **Sports:** Mike will be offering basketball for grades K-3 on Wednesdays in the gym (Times will be announced soon)
- **Noon Hour Leaders:** Mike will be working with our Grades 5 & 6 students at lunch hour to train them in leading games for students in grades 1-3.
- **Art Therapist:** Lisa, the youth & family worker, has organized art therapists to come to our school to work with students. It is called “spontaneous art” and the student is encouraged to freely express feelings through art.
- **Music Therapist:** Lisa has also organized a music therapist to come to our school to work with students.

**CAR WASH:** Come support your U16 GIRLS METRO VANCOUVER SOCCER TEAM THIS Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm @ The Garage 4066 MacDonald Street corner of W 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come enjoy a coffee, baked goods while your car is being washed! There will also be a raffle sale for your chance to win a Wii Fit Plus....