

# Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School  
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Website: [www.gordonelementary.ca](http://www.gordonelementary.ca)

**Safe Arrival 713-5403**

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

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

**2009 October 22**

**Newsletter #04**

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friday	October 23	<b>Provincial Professional Day</b> (school is not in session)
Tuesday	October 27	PAC Meeting 6:45-8:45 (note day is different)
Thursday	October 29	Grade 6/7 Dance hosted by Div. 3 & 4
Friday	October 30	Halloween Parade (9:00am)
Monday	November 2	Immunization (Grade 6's and K's)
Monday	November 9	2010 Paralympic Day Program
Date	TBA	Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00
Tuesday	November 10	Second Portrait Day
Wednesday	November 11	<b>Remembrance Day</b> (school is not in session)
Tuesday	November 17	<b>Professional Day</b> (school is not in session)

**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, to sign up or cancel, please contact Ingrid at [isulston@gmail.com](mailto:isulston@gmail.com) (604) 263 1920.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**ATHLETICS:** *Volleyball season is starting.* We have a Junior Girls, Junior Boys, Senior Girls and Senior Boys teams for students in Grades 6 & 7. A practice and game schedule will be sent home shortly as the games begin the week of November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**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 <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/vsbprograms/kto12/apfe/default.htm>.

**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. Orders are **due on the last Friday of the Month, October 30 and November 27.** If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email [dmschmidt@shaw.ca](mailto:dmschmidt@shaw.ca).

**DIRECT DRIVE DONATION:** A warm thank you to all families who contributed to the Direct Donation. \$6000 dollars was raised for the school. These funds will be used to buy needed supplies and materials for the teachers and administration, and will directly benefit all students. All families who contributed over \$10 will receive a charitable tax receipt from the Vancouver School Board.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> century. DI works with over 250,000 children and young adults in all 50 states and over 40 countries in the world. 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. The team needs to be facilitated by a parent (team manager). The students work as a group over a period of 8-12 weeks after school time to develop a solution to one of five competitive DI Team challenges each with a different education focus. The team of students decides which challenge they would like to work on and the team manager is the facilitator. Each team will choose a challenge and work on that for 8-12 weeks. They will bring this to the competition which will be held in March 2010. The team will also be working on doing Instant Challenges during this time and at the competition they will draw an instant challenge and have a time limit to do the challenge on the spot. Parents could lead a primary group and just work on instant challenges. If you are interested in leading a DI group please contact the principal, Ms. Davidson. There will be information on this program at the PAC meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:** The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success this year, raising just under \$1000 dollars for the school library. The success of the fair is thanks to our many student volunteers, who gave their time enthusiastically and helped with the set-up and take down of the fair (Aiden Shirley, Taylor Young, Caprice Eldridge, Brooklyn Hartwell, Coco Chandra, Sophie Evans, Emma Traulsen, Rachel Neo, Tea, Mika and Morgan). Many thanks also go out to our parent volunteers (Kathy Holt, Jill Stewart, Melanie Pogulis, Linda Wu and especially Megan Abele) for their volunteer time.

**SAFE ARRIVAL:** This program will be starting early in November. It will be announced in the next newsletter. If you want your child to be on the safe arrival program please make sure you have returned your stapled information sheets. P

**PAC MEETING:** This month's PAC meeting is on Tuesday Oct 27th, from 6:45pm-8:45pm in the library. Free babysitting available by grade 7 students in a nearby room. We have shifted PAC meetings to Tuesdays every other month to accommodate the varying schedules of parents - check your picture calendar or the website for the dates each month. This month we will have a visit from the Community School Team, information for parents of grade 7 students looking into secondary school options, and will have an introduction to the Destination Imagination program for parents who might be interested in running a group.

**LATE FRENCH IMMERSION FUNDRAISER: "Best Kept Secrets: Recipes from our General Gordon Community"** Deadline to receive recipes November 9. Contact Jenny Scott [jjhmz@shaw.ca](mailto:jjhmz@shaw.ca) or Lynda Prince [lynda.prince@shaw.ca](mailto:lynda.prince@shaw.ca) .

**SAFETY AT HALLOWE'EN:** The Vancouver School Board of Education encourages residents living near schools to report to police any vandalism or suspicious activities at schools. They need your assistance in addressing the problem of vandalism in our school communities. Please don't hesitate to dial 911 if you see anything suspicious around Halloween or any other nights. Thank you for helping our community stay safe and vandal free.

- Always wear makeup not a mask, you will be able to see better
- Always wear reflective tape on your costume. Drivers will be able to see you then.
- Always carry a flashlight.
- Always go trick or treating with your parents, a friend, or a group.
- Always go to houses where there are lights on.
- Never go inside a stranger's house or car
- Always start trick or treating early – and get home early.
- Always cross the road at the corner or crosswalk.
- Never go into alleys, parking areas, wooded or vacant lots.
- Always let your parents check your treats before you eat them.
- Never eat unwrapped candy, fresh fruit, homemade goods or other non-commercial products unless you are absolutely certain of where it came from.

**LOCAL CTV SITCOM PILOT:** Brent Butt from "Corner Gas" has written and is producing a sitcom called "HICCUPS." The vehicles for the set production staff will be on our field from Tuesday, October 27 starting at 6:00pm and will be gone Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> by 11:00pm. Precautions have been put in place to ensure the safety of all the children. There will be a security guard during the night that will be watching the vehicles. If you have any concerns please call the school.

**CLOTHING EXCHANGE:** We now have a clothing exchange bin at Gordon - thank you to parent Shelina Bergson for getting it started. Take any clothing that you can use for your children from the bin. Add clothing to the bin that that your children have grown out of that other Gordon families could use. The clothing exchange bin is located on the main floor near the office, on the landing next to the bottom of the main staircase (often behind a board). Please do not put lost and found clothing in this bin. If you find clothes lying around that belong to someone else, they go in the lost and found area in the basement.

## **NOVEMBER!! THE MONTH FOR REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 LATE**

**FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION AND INFO NIGHT** If you have a child in Grade 5 and are interested in a Late Immersion Program, General Gordon will be hosting an information meeting on *Wednesday, November 18 from 7:00-8:00pm* in the gym at General Gordon. This is a great learning opportunity that promises intellectual challenge and fun learning a new language. Brochures will be coming to your school to give some more information or you can go to the VSB website [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca). Registration will start in November and go until the end of January. It is not a first come, first serve basis but all registrations will be collected along with a written letter by the student which includes their reasons for wanting to participate in a Late Immersion program and a copy of their last report card. At General Gordon we have 60 spaces for Grade 6 students. If we have more applications there will be a draw in the beginning of February.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2010-11:** The Vancouver School Board is implementing new registration procedures for the 2010-11 school year. Applications for all Kindergarten programs (including regular English, French Immersion, Montessori and Fine Arts) for the 2010-11 school year will be received between **Nov. 1, 2009 and Jan. 31, 2010**. If, at January 31, there were more applications received than space available in any program or school, a lottery will be held to select the students who are accepted. Students not selected from the draw will be added to a waitlist maintained by the school. All families who submit a Kindergarten application prior to January 31, 2010 will be given notification of the school their child will be attending by March 31, 2010. This includes waitlisted students who were unable to secure a spot during the lottery process.

Applications received after January 31 will not be considered until all in-catchment who submitted an application prior to January 31 have been placed. Late applicants, including siblings of in-catchment students already enrolled in the school, will be added to the end of the school's waitlist. Late in-catchment sibling applicants will have priority consideration over other late in-catchment applicants.

This new process will replace the previous first-come, first-served procedure and eliminates the need for families to arrive early on the first day of registration. A family can register their child (ren) for Kindergarten if the student will reach the age of five years on or before December 31 of the calendar year. For the 2010-11 school year the child must be born in 2005. For more information, please see [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca)

**BRIDGE TO A COOL PLANET:** This event takes place on Saturday October 24 where the Cambie Bridge will be open at 11:00am. The banners will be dropped at noon and at 12:30 there will be a parade to Science World. At Science World there will be workshops, music and other performances.

**OUR KIDS:** A conference for parents and others connected to gifted children featuring Canadian author Dr. Joanne Foster. Register online at [www.odysseybc.ca](http://www.odysseybc.ca) or email [odysseybc@gmail.com](mailto:odysseybc@gmail.com) for more info.

**SHOES FOR THE WORLD:** Check us out at [www.shoesfortheworld.net](http://www.shoesfortheworld.net) Do you have a few items to donate to this project? Would you like to get rid of a few things?

The mission of the project is to collect shoes and clothes, transport them to places in need, to learn about each other, to foster understanding, tolerance and love for our fellow human beings and our planet. My friend, Eduardo, will sail to Mexico on November 1 and would like to take one suitcase/box filled with children's shoes and clothing. Please contact Jennifer Correa (Gordon Parent) at 604-339-25088 or [jennifercorrea@telus.net](mailto:jennifercorrea@telus.net).

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> THE VANCOUVER 2010 PARALYMPIC SCHOOL DAY** VANOC is pleased to announce that the athlete guest to visit our school will be **Donovan Tildesley**, A Canadian Paralympic Swimmer. Organizers invite our students and staff to wear red and white clothing that day to celebrate the spirit of the Paralympics and showcase pride and support for our athletes. We will begin with a school assembly to kick off the day and then some classes will participate in demo sessions of Sledge Hockey, Wheelchair Curling, and Cross country skiing while others will be able to have the guest athlete visit them in their classrooms. Further information will be shared with the classes closer to the event.