

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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Safe Arrival 713-6000

(when answered press 2880 without waiting for prompt)

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

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

2009 November 6

Newsletter #05

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	November 9	Paralympics Day
Tuesday	November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00am
Tuesday	November 10	Second Portrait Day (PM)
Wednesday	November 11	Remembrance Day (school is not in session)
Thursday	November 12	NCLD information meeting from 7:00-8:00pm
Tuesday	November 17	Professional Day (school is not in session)
Thursday	November 19	Open House-information on NCLD –time to give feedback (3:00-7:00pm)

NEWSLETTERS/INFORMATION BULLETINS You can receive this newsletter by email or paper or both. For email, sign up or at cancel at <http://gordonelementary.ca/node/59>. For paper please contact Ingrid at isulston@gmail.com (604) 263-1920.

SCHOOL NEWS

GORDON SCHOOL RENEWAL INFORMATION NIGHT: Thursday November 12th, from 7-8pm in the library. Catch up with where we are in the process of getting a seismically safe school, and what will happen at the NCLD open house. Get answers to your questions: When do we decide on a new/old/hybrid school? How much space are we going to get? What about daycare? What happens to the students during construction? Will the renewed school be built in a sustainable way? There will be a short presentation by the seismic committee and plenty of time for questions. This information night is open to parents and community neighbors of Gordon Elementary.

GORDON ELEMENTARY NCLD OPEN HOUSE: This is an important opportunity for you to give feedback on the involvement of community partners in our renewed school, the proposed space allocations of the program and site layout concepts. You are encouraged to bring your children also to the open house which will be on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH FROM 3:00-7:00PM IN THE GYM.

SAFE ARRIVAL: Safe Arrival is up and running. Thank you parent volunteers that make this program possible. The safe arrival program is for students who walk themselves to school every day. If your child is in the safe arrival program, please be sure to call the safe arrival number at the top of this newsletter if they will be absent from school on any day. If your child occasionally walks themselves to school, you can have your child in the program for one day. Here's how: On the day that your child walks themselves to school, call the safe arrival number at the top of every newsletter. Leave a message with the date you are calling, your child's name, division, and your contact number. Parent volunteers will call you if your child does not arrive at school that day.

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 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, November 27**. If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

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. 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.

- ❖ **Siblings also need to get their registrations in before the end of January to be guaranteed a placement.**
- ❖ **All in catchment students who register before the end of January will be accepted into General Gordon. For Kindergarten we have 40 spaces. If we have more than 40 registrations at the end of January there will be a draw.**

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 years the child must be born in 2005. For more information, please see www.vsb.bc.ca

SHOES FOR THE WORLD: Thank-you to all of the General Gordon families who donated shoes and clothing to the Shoes for the World project in the last couple of weeks. Eduardo left for Mexico on October 31 with a large duffle bag filled with everything donated by General Gordon families. His trip will take him from Puerto Vallarta to Costa Rica over the next few months. He will be updating the Shoes for the World blog and Facebook with pictures and information as he goes. Please visit www.shoesfortheworld.net and add Jennifer (Jennifer Gledhill-Correa on Facebook) and Eduardo (Eduardo Fritis) to your Facebook Friends Profile. Please contact me if you have any questions – Jennifer Correa 604-339-2508 – jennifercorrea@telus.net.

LIBRARY NEWS: Oct 26 was National and International School Library Day. To celebrate the day, people all over BC participated in D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read). Schools were the biggest participators but, apparently, adults also participated at their places of work. Maybe you can join them next year! So, at 11:00, all students and staff at Gordon read for 20 minutes. To celebrate this day and week, we had an author visit from Gr 2 to 6. The author was Linda Bailey (who is actually a former parent and neighbour). She explained her writing process and showed us her detective books and her Stanley books. The students were totally engaged. It was a great success. Her books have been flying off the shelves. This event was paid for by Robert Heidbreder's legacy. Bob taught Grade 1 at Gordon for years and won a national teaching award. This money is now used up and we will now be dependent on the PAC to pay for these visits. PAC has been doing this for about 5 years or so and our school is very grateful. Many wonderful authors and illustrators have come to Gordon, thanks to the two sources of funding.

PARALYMPIC DAY: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH 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.

PARALYMPIC CURLING FIELD TRIP FOR WHOLE SCHOOL: General Gordon has been able to get tickets for all the Grade 1-7 students to watch the Paralympics Curling where Canada will be competing on March 16th. Students will be able to see the curling and participate in some activities at the new facility by Hillcrest Park. We have been able to order buses for our whole school but will have to charge some money to the students. The tickets for the curling will be \$5.00 and the bus will be \$5.00. We would like to begin collecting the money next week so a field trip notice will be coming home to you. The students will have to bring a lunch that day as it would be difficult to make the 380 students a lunch. Also we will be leaving at 11:45 and returning at 3:45pm. Stay tuned for more information.

EXTRA ITEMS NEEDED: If families have any extra headphones, ear buds for our computer and listening centres for individual students, old Lego or building toys for our rainy day games and/or old DVD players you are not using, please drop them off in the office.

PHOTO RETAKES: On the afternoon of Tuesday Nov 10th. Orders must be prepaid. Order envelopes can be picked up at the office.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES: Boo! We're looking for any CLEAN Halloween costumes (store-bought or handmade), that are in good condition and would fit a child up to 16 years old. Pieces (wands / swords / crowns / capes / costume jewelry, etc.) are welcome, too! Everything will be donated to BC Children's Hospital for their annual "Halloween Party and Trick or Treat Parade". If you can help, please contact Andrea Martin Blair @ martinvonblair@telus.net or 604-736-3826 to arrange for pickup. She is happy to store donations until October of 2010. Thank you!

UNICEF DONATIONS: This year UNICEF is doing a fundraiser called Trick or Treat. All of the money fundraised will go to schools in Malawi and Rwanda. They have a new format which makes it very simple for everyone to donate money to this wonderful cause! The link below will lead to a page that has been made for General Gordon students and parents to donate money. Students from Kitsilano, part of the Links Crew Team have teamed up with our school to look at global issues. They met with student council on Thursday, October 22 and both student council and the Links Crew team have decided to work together to help children in schools in Malawi and Rwanda. There will be a form sent home that students can fill in or they can go to the following links and make a donation. Our goal this year as a school community is to look at global issues in our own community and also in other communities in need around the world. ***Students once they have donated can put their name in a draw for prizes and becoming vice-principal and principal for a day.*** Our goal is to raise enough money to be able to allow a village to have clean water. You can go to the following websites to donate and the students can bring in their receipt to put their name in a draw.

Link: <http://my.e2rm.com/TeamPage.aspx?teamID=124130&LangPref=en-CA> If this link does not work go to www.trickortreatforunicef.ca, Click "British Columbia", Followed by "Start Fundraising", Type "Gen" into the search Click "General Gordon Elementary"

PUBLIC SAFETY SEMINAR

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at Bayview Community School gymnasium (enter off 7th Avenue between Dunbar and Collingwood Streets)

Time: 7-8.30pm

Topic of Discussion: Personal Safety

Speakers: Constable Braithwaite, Inspector Robinson, Inspector Usui and Sargeant Clive Milligan

You are invited to attend a public safety forum this Tuesday evening. This presentation is being coordinated by the Community Police Unit and a local Blockwatch group in response to the recent assault that took place in our neighbourhood. All adults and teens are invited to attend.

The goal of the presentation is to create a sense of empowerment within the community and lessen the fear that some people are currently feeling. A personal safety demonstration will be presented by Sargeant Milligan.

