

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 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 20

Newsletter #06

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	November 23	Lynn Green (Associate Superintendent) to visit school 8:00-10:00am
Friday	November 27	Dental Screening for Kindergarten students
Monday	November 30	PAC Meeting with Dr. Jane Garland
Thursday	December 11	Winter Concert (2 shows-odd & even divisions 6:30-9:00pm)
Thursday	December 11	Craft Fair
Wednesday	December 16	Santa's Workshop

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

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.

PAC MEETING: PAC meeting with speaker Dr. Jane Garland - **Monday Nov 30th PAC meeting starts 6:45pm** in the library. Dr. Garland will be speaking from 7:30pm - 8:45pm. There will be **free childminding**. Dr. Jane Garland will speak on "**Mindful Parenting**": Today's world is busy and pressured. How does this affect our children? How do we help our children reduce this stress? Dr. Jane Garland, child psychiatrist and head of BCCH Mood and Anxiety Clinic, discusses the latest neurobehavioural research alongside of developmental psychology, philosophy and traditional spiritual practices to help parents understand and use mindful parenting. Dr. Garland will also talk about school based programs (Friends, Roots of Empathy and Mind Up) and how to advocate for these programs.

SCHOOLGROUNDS: Due to the amount of rain there has been some flooding in our school basement. The grounds workers will be ripping up some of the blacktop area by the west basement door with the ramp. They will also be taking down the wooden posts where the tire swings used to be and putting in pea gravel. They will be closing down the wooden structure on the north side of the school for a couple of days next week to investigate the leakage on the south side of the school.

NCLD OPEN HOUSE: Thank you for such a great turn out at the Open house. The room was busy for the whole time. If you did not yet fill out your comment form, and you should even if you did not attend the open house, the deadline is Friday Nov 27th. The boards and the comment form from the Open house are posted on the school website <http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/1> It is important that we submit as many comment forms as possible, as your comments will be used by the architects as they begin designing our next school. You can post your comment form in the box in the hallway outside the school office, or email or fax it to the address on the back of the form.

HINI UPDATE: Immunization clinics will be held at Kitsilano Secondary School on Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 from 3:30-7:00pm. Vancouver students and school district employees may attend this clinic. There is a notice that went home today to communicate the other clinics that will be happening before Christmas.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP: *The Gordon Seasonal Loonie Sale is back on Wednesday, December 16.* There will be a schedule set up for the classes to attend. **Please hand in any of your gently used or unused items (Only good quality items PLEASE!)** Collection boxes are in the Grade 6 & 7 Immersion Classrooms and outside the school office. We are also collecting gift-wrap, ribbon, bows, and nametags. This sale is sponsored by the Grade 6 & 7 Immersion students and proceeds support the Grade 6/7 French trips. This is an opportunity for all students to come down to the lunchroom and buy some affordable gifts for their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and/or sisters. The younger students will come down to the lunchroom with their buddies and the older students will help them with picking out gifts. *This sale is not for adults to buy gifts; it is strictly for the children.*

HOLIDAY CONCERT: All the students have been working hard in Music under the amazing teaching of our Music Specialist Catherine MacIntyre. Ms. Mac has put together a wonderful evening for us where all of our students can perform and participate. We have limited space in our gym so we will be having two concerts and two dress rehearsals. The evening performances will be at 6:30 and 7:45pm on Thursday, December 10. The dress rehearsals will be at 11:00am and 1:00pm on Thursday, December 10.

- We are asking all families to only bring two guests to the evening performances so that all families can participate. If you have other guests who would like to see their grandchildren, nieces, and/or nephews perform please invite them to our dress rehearsals. There will be forms coming home with more information.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: The Holiday Craft Fair will take place this year in the basement at General Gordon. Children and adults can sign up to have a table to sell their crafts. The sign up sheets will be up soon. We would love some volunteers to help the students decorate the basement and help set up the tables. The craft fair will be from 5:00-6:30pm and also from 7:15-7:45pm before the concerts on Thursday, December 10th.

WINTER HOLIDAY THEME DAY: For the month of December the theme day is all about *winter and holidays*. Dress up as your favourite winter character, sport or object or dress in a winter colour. Winter/Holiday day will be on Wednesday, December 2. Stay tuned for more fun theme days.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS: Steering Kids Away From Gangs: *What Parents Need to Know* Parents from our neighboring schools are invited to Queen Alexandra School for an interactive evening workshop designed to provide parents with information about what they can do to support their children in resisting involvement in gangs. Topics that will be covered include: Youth gangs in Vancouver, Gang behavior, Why youth join gangs, Signs of involvement in gangs, Prevention – how to help your children. Parents will receive a booklet of helpful information and community resources. Multi-cultural Workers from the Vancouver School Board will be present to translate the information into Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese. **November 24, 2009. 6:00 pm - refreshments. 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm - session.** Queen Alexandra School, 1300 East Broadway (at Clark). Please call 604-713-4599 to reserve a seat. Child minding will be provided for free in the school library.