

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
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(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 December 4

Newsletter #07

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Thursday	December 10	Winter Concert (2 shows: odd divisions 6:30pm, even divisions 7:45pm)
Thursday	December 10	Craft Fair
Wednesday	December 16	Santa's Workshop
Wednesday	December 16	Grade 6/7 Dance
Friday	December 18	Report Cards Home (last day of school before break)
Monday	January 4	Schools reopen

SCHOOL CLOSURES:

Please assume that the school will be open unless you hear otherwise on the radio or television stations. The following information will help you. Information regarding school closures in the event of snow, or other emergency situations, will be provided to the following radio and television stations by 6:00am on the morning of the closure: CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM), AND CBC Radio (690 AM, 105.7 FM), FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM 1470/CHKG FM 96.1), BCTV/Global (cable channel 11), CITY TV (cable channel 13) School closure information is also available online at www.vsb.bc.ca.

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

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. Parents are welcome to any of these shows.

Dress rehearsals, Thursday, December 10: Odd numbered divisions at 9am. Even numbered divisions at 11am.

Evening performances, Thursday, December 10: Odd numbered divisions at 6:30pm. Even numbered divisions at 7:45pm.

- *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 Monday with more information.*

WINTER 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 sheet is on the bulletin board in the main hallway. The craft fair will be from 5:00-6:30pm before the concerts and also from 7:15-7:45pm between the concerts on Thursday, December 10th.

Call for baked goods for the Winter Fair: If you like to bake, please bring dessert baked goods for the PAC sale at the Winter Fair. Leave your dessert on the table opposite the school office on Thursday Dec 10th, before 3:15pm. Dishes will be returned to the same table the next day - please label yours with your name.

GORDON COOKBOOK: General Gordon's Best Kept Secrets Cookbook is near completion. It will make its first appearance at the General Gordon Concert this weekend we will have copies to sell that night. Think about how easy it will be do some shopping at the concert. You can use them as gifts for Christmas presents, Hanukkah gifts and hostess presents for those hosts who may want some new ideas. Look for it next week. Contact Jenny Scott jjhmz.scott@shaw.ca or Lynda Prince at lynda.prince@shaw.ca if you have any questions.

RECYCLING: Don't forget to save all your holiday bottles for our recycling. Bring them in after the holidays and there will be extra boxes available to fill.

FOOD BANK AND CHRISTMAS BUREAU DONATIONS: Running from Nov. 30th-Dec. 11th. All classrooms have boxes to fill for the food bank as well as the Christmas Bureau. Please have your children bring in cans and presents for those in need. Boxes are also available in the lobby of the school. This year we are only accepting cans for the food bank. Some ideas are fish, spaghetti, soups and beans. For the Christmas bureau we will be accepting anything new such as toiletries, games and gift cards. Thank you very much! If you have any questions please contact Avril Bain at bainclan@telus.net or Jenny Scott at jjhmz@shaw.ca

REGISTERING YOUR CHILD AT GENERAL GORDON – 2010-2011

Late French Immersion: If you have a child in Grade 5 and are interested in a Late Immersion Program, you need to fill in an application before January. 31st. 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 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 : You need to register your child for Kindergarten before January 31st, 2010.

Moving to a new school in the 2010-2011 year: Please fill in the blue forms that were sent home to indicate you are returning to General Gordon or moving out of our community. This really helps us with our numbers for next year. Thank you!

SUPPORTING LEARNING

REPORT CARDS

The first formal report card of the year is being sent home with the students on December 18. This can bring any of several emotions/reactions to the home. It is important for parents to understand the purpose of the report card. The report card is to communicate information to the parents about the standing, achievement and direction of your children. Teachers have used a number of instructional strategies, assigned work in a variety of ways and used a number of assessment and evaluation approaches. Please take time to sit down with your child and discuss how he/she is doing, how they feel about their efforts and where they might need support so they can improve. We are all working together in the Gordon Community to help encourage our children to be the best that they can be, to achieve success in their academics, to promote citizenship and to instill a sense of belonging in our community.

The requirements for formal and informal reporting are based on ministerial orders and regulations authorized under the School Act. Schools must follow the specific requirements for reporting students' progress as outlined in the policy. Provincial regulations for reporting student progress requires that parents or guardians be provided with a minimum of three formal written report cards. The formal written report card must be on a form approved by the Minister or school board. Formal reports communicate to parents and students significant aspects of the students' progress in the areas of intellectual, social, human and career development. The performance scale for primary and intermediate students indicates, in words the students' level of performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes set out in the provincial curriculum for each subject and grade.

For Kindergarten, performance is described as one of the following:

- Approaching Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Exceeding Expectations

For Grades 1 to 7

- Not Yet Meeting Expectations

- Approaching Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Fully Meeting Expectations
- Exceeding Expectations

There are two reporting formats that have been approved by the Ministry and the Board. There is the anecdotal, paragraph style or the Grid style format. Both kinds of report cards must clearly describe, in relation to the learning outcomes:

- What the student is able to do
- Areas in which the student requires further attention or development
- Ways of supporting the student in his/her learning

If you have any concerns about your child's progress please set up a time to meet with their teacher.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MANDARIN FOR BEGINNERS AT GORDON (6-10 yrs) Coming soon-January 2010

Introducing an exciting new language program designed for beginners and students with limited exposure to Mandarin. This 1.5 hour class will build skills and confidence through social interaction and fun activities with the goal of giving participants a working knowledge of the language and exposure to Chinese culture. The class will play games, learn Mandarin sounds and sound combinations, hear music, read and write commonly-used characters, and even munch on tasty treats! Give your brain a treat and learn a new language! Instructor: Jenna Wang on Thursdays from 3:30pm-5:00pm

Jericho Kids' Club Community Programs @ General Gordon School

Contact Kate at jerichokidsclub@telus.net for more information.

HAVE A FESTIVE HOLIDAY SEASON