

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
2896 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1
604-713-5403 Fax 604-713-5405
Website: www.gordonelementary.ca

Safe Arrival 604-713-6000 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 January 19

Newsletter#9

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	January 19	Performance (Michael Mitchell K-3)-11:00am
Tuesday	January 20	Professional Day (school is not in session)
Wednesday	January 21	Kits Info Night for Grade 7 students & parents 7:00pm
Monday	January 26	Cyber Safety at the VSB, Room 400 at 5:00pm
Monday	January 26	Chinese New Year
Tuesday	January 27	PAC Meeting at 6:45 – Topic: Body Science
Wednesday	February 4	Parent Teacher Conferences- Students dismissed at 11:00am
Thursday	February 5	Parent Teacher Conferences- Students dismissed at 2:00pm

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.

SCHOOL NEWS

STAFF CHANGES: We would like to welcome Ms. Deni Mori who is teaching Grade 2/3 with Ms. Laara Brown and to Ms. Stella Lee who is teaching the Grade 5/6 class.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Kindergarten Registrations for the 2009-2010 school year are now being accepted at the General Gordon School Office. Children born in 2004 will begin attending school in September 2009. The parent or legal guardian must personally attend when registering a student. An official Birth Certificate, applicable immigration and citizenship papers, health immunization records and proof of Residency in the General Gordon catchment area must be presented to complete registration. Original documentation is required. To ensure placement at General Gordon Elementary School for September 2009, you are advised to register early.

WHY NOT TRY LATE FRENCH IMMERSION? This is a great learning opportunity that promises intellectual challenge and fun learning a new language. Registration will start on January 5 and end on January 30th. 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.

PAC MEETING ON BODY SCIENCE AT GORDON: January PAC meeting is on **Tuesday Jan 27th** from 6:45-8:45pm in the library. **Note the changed date**, to avoid coinciding with Chinese New Year. Free babysitting by grade 7 students available. PAC meeting will focus on Body Science (Health and Career Education) at Gordon, with guest Emily Malnis, our school nurse. She will be teaching body science to the students. This PAC meeting is for parents to hear what she will be talking about, with plenty of time for questions. There will also be body science books on sale by Kidsbooks' staff for children and families.

SAFE ARRIVAL: We need to change how we run the Safe Arrival program. We have many students signed up who do not bring themselves to school and we do not have enough parent volunteers available for the time the program requires. We will be asking parents to sign up again if they are eligible for the program. We will also introduce one-day sign-ups for families who need it occasionally. Please watch for a notice to come home with your child. Questions? Contact Susan Schuurman (778) 991 7017.

BOTTLE COLLECTION: Please bring your drinks bottles from the holidays. The recycling centre is in the basement near the kindergarten room. We collect drinks containers - plastic, glass and aluminum cans - to raise money for PAC. We do take beer, wine and spirits containers. We do not take containers that hold milk products.

CANUCK'S TICKETS FUNDRAISER: Congratulations to *Jenny Scott* who won the tickets. The tickets sales raised \$2700.00 for our French Immersion students to go towards their outdoor education.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: For the month of January Divisions 1 & 12 are working with the theme "*Going for Quality/Personal Best.*" Please see the bulletin board in the hallway for their quality and personal best stories. Please add your own personal best!

GRADE 7 FAMILIES:KITS INFO NIGHT Grade 7 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Kitsilano Secondary Auditorium on Wednesday, January 21st at 7 pm. Teachers, Counsellors, students and administrators will be giving families information and answering question about Kitsilano's Grade 8 programs for 2009-2010. Additional info and materials outlining mutual expectations, the articulation process and registration procedures will also be provided.

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, January 30*. If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email dmschmidt@shaw.ca.

SUPPORTING LEARNING

WILLIAM GLASSER: William Glasser believes that all human beings have five basic needs: love, power, freedom, fun and survival. He states that "Quality, therefore, is anything with experience that is consistently satisfying to one or more of these basic needs." This month our virtues focus is on "quality work" and "doing your best." Most of Glasser's theories and training revolve around how to engage students in quality work and also meet their needs.

William Glasser came up with six conditions of Quality Schoolwork:

1. There must be a warm, supportive classroom environment.
2. Students should be asked to do only useful work.
3. Students are always asked to do the best they can do.
4. Students are asked to evaluate their own work and improve it.
5. Quality work always feels good.
6. Quality work is never destructive.

(The Quality School Teacher, 1993, William Glasser)

PERFORMANCES: *Kinnie Starr* is an MC-singer-youth activist whose music has been described as "hip-hop aggro groove." She has toured internationally and played for our Grade 4-7 students on Tuesday, January 13th. *Michael Mitchell* sings songs that tell stories of our Canadian Heritage. He is the former co-host of the CTV children's program Story Time and has written and recorded songs for Sesame Street and PBS. He performed on Monday, January 19 for the Kindergarten – Grade 3 students.

GOAL-SETTING/PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE: We welcome parents to come and visit their child's classroom, see their work, talk about goals for the term and chat with their child's teacher. The parent teacher conferences take place on Wednesday, February 4 and Thursday, February 5.

THE CHILDREN'S BUILDING NETWORK IS UNDERWAY AT GORDON: Parents and students are invited to join and be part of establishing The Children's Building Network at General Gordon. The CBN is a group that will meet weekly after school to build. The foundation of the group and building will be LEGO with a goal of incorporating other building media into the weekly meetings, i.e. wood building with hammer and nails, building projects out of recycled material, and any other ideas that come to the group. The CBN is in its beginning stages and will start on *Wednesday, January 21 at 12:20 and run until 3:00pm*. This first meeting will be LEGO playtime, held at Jennifer Correa's (Mom of Samuel - Mr. Graves' class & Olivia - Ms. Fenton/Lang's class) house. The CBN's goal is to have this weekly meeting at General Gordon; all the details have not yet been worked out. Students who would like to be involved can do one of the following: meet Jennifer, Samuel & Olivia at the office by 12:10 and walk with us to our home at 2nd and Balaclava, or have your parent drop you off at our house. Students, who walk home with us, please bring your lunch and a snack if needed. Parents must pick-up

at 3pm or if your child goes to JKC we can walk them back to General Gordon JKC. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come on Wednesday as well so that we can discuss and plan for the future of The Children's Building Network. If there is a huge response, I will ask one or more parents to take on having some of the children come to their house - traveling LEGO club style to start until we move the group into General Gordon. Call or email Jennifer to say that you are coming or for more information - jennifercorrea@telus.net, 604-339-2508. I would like to hear from parents of students especially if they are planning to walk home with me, I want to make sure that students who are walking home and coming to my house have informed their parents and that they have permission and that they will be picked up at 3pm. Thanks!

COMMUNITY NEWS

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH: CPF offer the following French courses for parents. The cost is \$130.00, material included. For registration and payment, please phone 1-800-747-4825 or 604-708-5100. For more info e-mail frenchforparents@ecuacentre.com or visit our website at www.educacentre.com.

WINTER SEMESTER SCHEDULE - VANCOUVER

Collège ÉDUACENTRE : 896, W 8th avenue (6:30 to 9pm)

Beginner 1: Thursday February 5 to April 2

Beginner 2: Tuesday February 3 to March 31

Elementary 1: Thursday February 5 to April 2

Elementary 2: Tuesday February 3 to March 31 (9:30-12:00AM)

Elementary 2: Wednesday February 4 to April 1

Intermediate 1: Wednesday February 4 to April 1

Intermediate 2: Monday February 2 to March 30

Please register by January 28 2009

CYBER SAFETY: Jan Sippel, coordinator for abuse prevention, and the social responsibility and diversity team, will be presenting on "Cyber Safety" on Monday, January 26 at 5:00pm at the VSB. (Room 400) Learn how to keep yourself and your family safe in the cyber environment. Be aware of what it means to be a wise user of the Internet, blogs and Facebooks. A light cold supper is included for a small charge. Delta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, presents the evening. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 22 to sasaj@telus.net.

6th ANNUAL KIDS ONLY 5KM RACE AND FUN RUN: L'Ecole Jules Quesnel and the VSB present the 6th annual Kids Only 5km run and fun run on Sunday, March 8th starting promptly at 10:00am. Visit the website to download a form and see the results. <http://quesnel.vsb.bc.ca/kidsonly5kmrun.pdf>.