

# Gordon Gazette

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

**Safe Arrival ☎ 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

2010 January 25

Newsletter #09

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

Monday	January 25	PAC Meeting
Tuesday	January 26	Gr. 7 (English program) orientation visit to Kits High School
Wednesday	January 27	Esteem team athlete, Mitch Baker visit (gr. 4-7)
Thursday	January 28	Grade 7 Parent Information Night (English and French) 7 pm 'Hoja' in concert at Gordon Grade 7 students return from Quebec
Friday	January 29	SportFit Challenge Enrolment forms due for Grade 7 students registering Kits Gr. 8 due (English)
Monday	February 1	<b>PROFESSIONAL DAY (no school for students)</b>
Wednesday	February 3	Parent-Teacher Conferences (note early dismissal, 11:05)
Thursday	February 4	Parent-Teacher Conferences (note early dismissal, 2:05) Enrolment forms due for Grade 7 students registering Kits Gr. 8 due (LFI)
Monday	February 8	Kindergarten divisions change times
Tuesday	February 9	Testing for Gr. 7 ESL students, 8:40 Kits high school cafeteria
Friday	February 12	Winter Olympics begin.

### 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](http://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](mailto:isulston@gmail.com) (604) 263-1920.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Our second term intake conferences will take place Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Dismissal on these two days will be earlier to accommodate meetings. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss and review your child's progress and goals established in the first term, and set further directions for the weeks leading up to the second term reports due out by Spring Break. Please return your completed conference time request to your child's teacher this week.  
Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> Early Dismissal is 11:05 am. Conferences scheduled from 11:15-7:30 pm  
Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal is 2:05 pm. Conferences scheduled from 2:15-4:00pm.

**FSA –The Foundations Skills Assessment:** (FSA) will be administered during the period of January 18<sup>th</sup> thru February 26<sup>th</sup> to Grades 4 and 7 students in British Columbia. FSA information is available at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa>  
A notice was sent home the first week in January to parents of all grade 7 and grade 4 students from chairperson, Patti Bacchus, on behalf of the Vancouver Board of School Trustees. This letter outlines details of the assessment including ‘Facts about the FSA’, and ‘participation guidelines’. Parents are asked to read this letter from the trustees and, if needed, direct further questions or concerns to the Principal or Vice Principal. Individual student reports will be ready to send home by the end of March.  
FSA sample questions are available anytime at: [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sample\\_tests.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sample_tests.htm)

## **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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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) 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**ATTENTION GRADE 7 PARENTS:** Kitsilano, “our” Secondary School will be hosting a **Grade 7 Student Orientation Visit/ Tour on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:15**. The **Parent Night is on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** in Kitsilano Auditorium at 7:00 pm. Is your child in Grade 7? Enrolment Forms (Course Selection) have been sent home with students in Div 1&2. Deadline for Grade Div 1&2 Enrolment Forms is Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Div 3 & 4 will receive enrolment forms upon their return from Quebec FI and will have until Feb 4<sup>th</sup> week to bring back their enrollment forms to Gordon. Additional forms are available at the Gordon Office. In Boundary: **ALL** registrations **Must** include the following: 1. Course Selection (Enrolment) Form 2. Proof of Address

## **STUDENT SAFETY AND SUPERVISION:**

With a recent police alert in our neighbourhood, now is a good time to remind your children about safety as they move in and about the neighbourhood. We do expect that students will be picked up or walked home shortly after school. Playground supervision ends at 3:20pm regular dismissal days and Wednesdays at 12:20pm. We ask that all students who remain on the playground after these times have their parent in attendance. Please arrange *inadvance* an alternate adult supervisor for your child if you can not be with them. Students who have not been picked up by 3:20pm are to come into the office to contact their parent.

Also, if you have children who walk home from school by themselves, perhaps try to find a "buddy" they can walk home with.

**PAC MEETING:** Monday Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 6:45pm-8:45pm in the library. Free babysitting by grade 7 students. A rescheduled speaker, our very own Mary Locke, our teacher-librarian will talk about the work of the school library, use of data bases at school and home, and author visits. The FSA (Grade 4 & 7 provincial assessments) will be discussed. The presentation by our school nurse Emily Malnis on Sex Education/Body Science has to be unfortunately rescheduled.

**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, January 29, March 19, April 30, June 11.** If you have any questions please contact Diana Schmidt at 604-737-4896 or email [dmschmidt@shaw.ca](mailto:dmschmidt@shaw.ca). Post-dated cheques will be allowed again for set orders. Also **SAFeway** cards are available all the time. Just contact Diana Schmidt.

## **SUPPORTING LEARNING**

**Hearts For Haiti:** Students in Divisions 2 & 13 recently sponsored a fundraising initiative for the earthquake victims in Haiti and had most staff and students ‘wearing red’ last week on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Every student, parent or staff member who donated received a heart. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event.

**ESTEEM TEAM:** Mitch Baker, a former Canadian Snowboard Team Member will speak to our Grades 4-7 students on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:15. Please look at Mitch’s bio at <http://www.esteemteam.com/en/athletes-27-mitch-baker>. (revised date)

**SportFit Challenge:** January 29<sup>th</sup>. *SportFit* is a sport discovery program that is fun, non- competitive and allows students to explore sport activities. *2010 Legacies Now* is providing Gordon with a SportFit leader and will train 20 student leaders (training begins at 8:00 sharp) to deliver the challenges to their fellow students and manage the event for the day. Please contact the school if parents are able to help out in the morning or in the afternoon. Fridays SportFit event will involve division 1-8 & division 16 students. Another event for divisions 9-15 students will be (TBA). Go to [www.SportFitCanada.com](http://www.SportFitCanada.com) for more information.

**CANFUND: Canadian Athletes Now** —is a not-for-profit organization devoted solely to raising direct funds and awareness for Canada's athletes. Gordon school is participating in their National School Campaign, 'We CAN Succeed Together'. Student Council members are asking for donations of \$3.00 or more. With every donation you will get a CANFUND wrist band. To learn more please visit [www.CanadianAthletesNow.ca](http://www.CanadianAthletesNow.ca)

**Olympic Countdown:** An excellent information source for families wishing to follow the count-down to the Olympics and talk about all the sports involved is: <http://www.vancouver2010.com/>  
You can also follow the news on the games at: <http://www.vancouver2010.com/sports/2010wintergames/index.html>

**Awesome Friday Games: Attention Grade 5 & 6 students Leadership Program** moves from Thursday lunch to Friday after school. Wanna play games after school? Of course you do! You will play everything from field games and group games. Come on out to *Awesome Friday Games*. Play old games, learn new games and even make up games!

**MoreSports: Attention all Grade 6/7 students, Floor Hockey and Badminton**

Thursdays, after school beginning February 4<sup>th</sup> thru to March 4<sup>th</sup>. The first three weeks would be floor hockey; the last two weeks would be badminton. Open to the grade 6/7s at a cost of \$30 each or pay what you can. Flier will be sent home soon.

**BASKETBALL AT GORDON:** We have 4 teams participating at Gordon. We have senior girls and senior boys' team and a junior girls and boys team. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches and teacher sponsors.

*Junior Boys* – games on Mondays                      *Junior Girls*- games on Tuesdays  
*Senior Boys*- games on Wednesdays              *Senior Girls* –games on Thursdays

**One to One Literacy:** Interested in volunteering with the *One to One literacy* program? Please come to a training session on January, 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am -noon. The session will take place at Culloden Church located at 6060 Culloden St. one block west of Knight. To register phone 604-255-5559 or fax 255-5515. Gordon has enjoyed a long association with this incredible agency.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**MANDARIN FOR BEGINNERS AT GORDON** (6-10 yrs) [jerichokidsclub@telus.net](mailto:jerichokidsclub@telus.net) for more information.

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

**GirlsMarts- A computer Science workshop for Gr. 6 girls.**

Registration for this UBC computer science workshop for Grade 6 girls is still open. For information or to register, please visit <http://cs.ubs.ca/local/FoWCS/girlsmarts/> or e-mail Catherine Famroth, workshop coordinator at [girlsmarts@gmail.com](mailto:girlsmarts@gmail.com)