

The Gordon Buzz

Coolest Newspaper for Gordon Elementary Students



Vol. 1 Issue 1
Fall 2011



Gingerbread houses at Gordon are only a part of the school's large array of decorations...

Happy Holidays!!!

GORDON BUZZ NEWSPAPER CLUB
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FEATURED INSIDE

Book Reviews, Recipes, Articles, Columns, Comics, Horoscopes, Advice, Photos, Interviews & more!



SEASONAL

'Tis the Season'

by Rebecca Gregg & Natalya Porter

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Gordon students just love Halloween!



Vancouver, BC - November 2011 - Winter is upon us, so if you like winter, here are some suggestions for you. If you don't, then you still might be interested in these.

First of all, at VanDusen Gardens, there are lots of pretty lights strung from trees and busses. Plus around the lake, lights dance to music. In past years, there have been singers & musicians. Meanwhile, at the Roundhouse Community Centre, there is the Urban Artisan Craft Fair. This includes: pottery, toys, clothing and jewelry all hand made by local artisans . Plus a kids craft fair. For dates and times go to <http://www.roundhouse.ca>.

Another thing is the Circle Craft Christmas Market that has all kinds of cool stuff from toy trains to an entertainment stage. There is lots to choose from. For times, dates and location go to www.circlecraft.net.

The Stanley Park Christmas train is a nice little train with decorations on both sides of the tracks. Firemen set up "Bright Nights" with thousands of lights. Great event for younger children. Adults cost \$9; Children/Seniors cost \$6. Look at <http://www.vancouver.ca/parks/events/brightnights/> for more information.

The German Christmas Market is a market downtown, showing Canadians what a market in Germany would be like. They serve Austrian, German & Swiss food. They serve "Gluehwein" (hot mulled wine) and you can walk around and see the stage, the children's area and the marketplace where you can buy Christmas ornaments from Germany. It is located in front of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Adults cost \$5; Youth \$2 and children 6 and under are free. More information can be found at: <http://vancouverchristmasmarket.com/>

Finally, there is the Vancouver Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 9th at the Jack Poole Plaza at the Convention Centre. This event is a free community event, with a 50 foot tree. For more information, please visit <http://vancouvertreelighting.com/>



If you are interested in more Christmas Events, it is always helpful to ask other students for suggestions and ideas. If you have time, you can Google it - you can find out about free skating times, or Santa sightings or streets with a lot of lights on it. If you do go to an event, and send us pictures, we just might publish them on our new Gordon Buzz Newspaper blog! Happy Holidays!

For only \$24.95, the Christmas Passport provides great Christmas discounts at VanDusen Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver's Museum, Art Gallery, Symphony & Ballet. Enjoy Vancouver attractions, museums, restaurants, entertainment & more!!

Get one free Season's Pass for the Vancouver Christmas Market (\$15.00 Value) when you buy the Christmas Passport at the market!





GORDON NEWS

Excited About the New School?

by Daniel Costea, Journalist



KIND



SAFE



FAIR



Vancouver, December 2012 - Last year General Gordon Elementary celebrated 100 years of existence. Our school has a lot of history and is considered to be a heritage building.

Over a number of years, several projects were proposed, discussed and modified. Finally, it was decided that a new school would be built.

The construction of the new school will start in 2013. The old school will be demolished in 5 phases to allow construction of the new school on the existing school site.

I have interviewed several students ranging from grade 1 to grade 7 in regards to their feeling and concerns about the construction phases, and the length of time required to complete this process.

The students were very excited to be able to see the plans of the new school. They are looking forward to experiencing the new outdoor play areas and the multipurpose room.

They will be a bit sad that the old gym will be demolished because of all the memories gathered through the years, but they are looking forward to making new memories in the new space.

The new school looks very modern and functional and for the next 100 years will serve as a learning community and a social gathering place for several generations.



Pictures by Mia Chapman





ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Schools

by Aiden Hinkins

Did You Know?

Most of us try to be environmentally friendly at home but what about our schools?

2011/2012 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

General Gordon is enrolled in the 2011/2012 Elementary School Recycling Program. As part of an effort to recycle beverage containers, Encorp Pacific (Canada) would like to invite all schools to participate in their School Recycling Program.

Since many students bring a number of beverage containers to school everyday, Encorp has developed a program to encourage the recycling of these containers. Refunded money can be used for school fundraising opportunities. This program does not cost you anything, and your school will receive a full deposit refund on all of the Encorp containers you collect. So please bring your bottles!



The Ministry of Education has made a guide called "Sustainable Schools" to help schools adopt environmentally sustainable practices and teach students about sustainability. A sustainable practice is one that does not harm the environment: e.g. the air, ground water, oceans and lakes and other creatures (including us!). In addition the VSB is developing their own plan with hopes of becoming the greenest school district in North America. The VSB plan should be ready in 2012.

Ms. Davidson has indicated that our school is working towards our own green plan. Part of that plan includes applying for a grant to get a shed and expand gardening at our school. Our school vegetable gardens are a great opportunity for us to learn about how to grow nutritious, pesticide-free food and why they benefit our environment and health.

General Gordon is considering a partnership with U.B.C. in which university students studying different aspects of sustainability will have the opportunity to talk to us about what they've learned. We will then be able to apply what we learn from them, at school and at home.

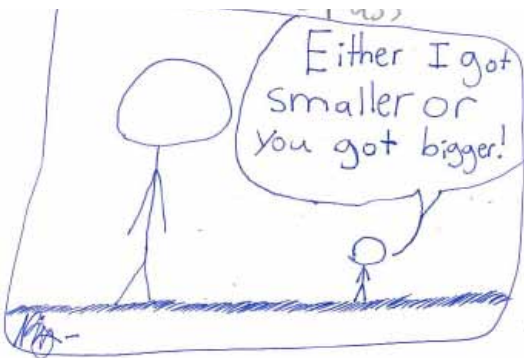
Ms. Davidson has mentioned the possibility of starting 'Sustainability Club' in the near future. The Ministry of Education feels that a sustainability club or green team is an effective way to get students, staff and administration to work together on environmental initiatives.

These are all exciting plans for the future. If you want to start now, "no garbage lunches" and paper recycling are a great way for you to help General Gordon be more environmentally friendly.



Picture by Mia Chapman

Snoodlepuss



It's a pity we can't swim.



What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes!

What candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?

Neither, a candle always burns shorter!

Why was Santa's Helper depressed?

He had low "elf" esteem!

Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

So he can "Hoe, hoe, hoe!"

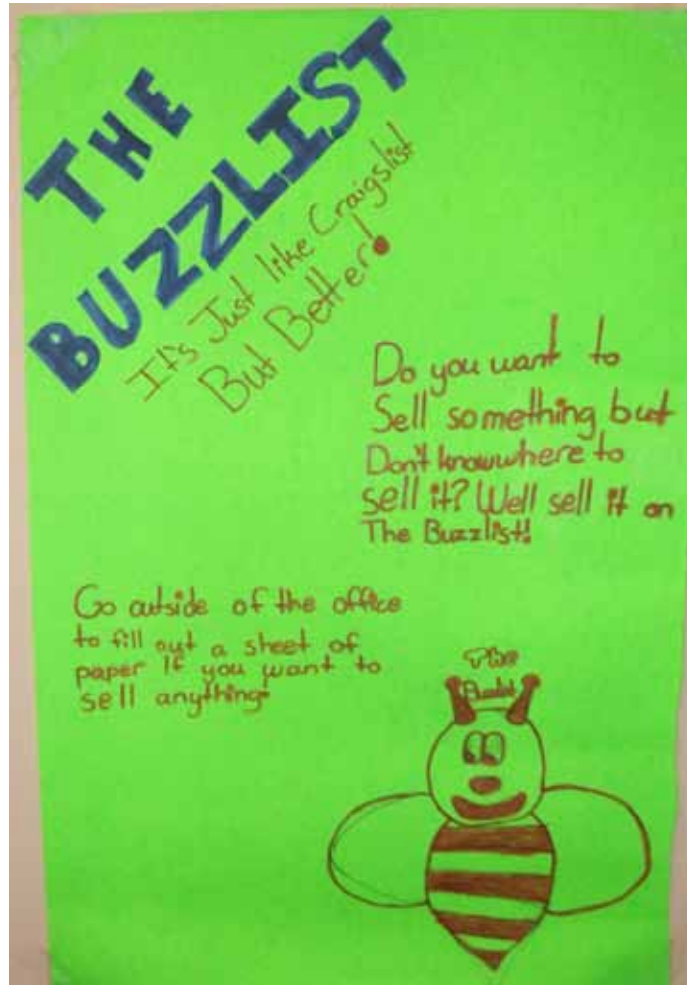


THE BUZZLIST

Like a simplified version of craigslist, Gordon students will be able to offer unwanted items for sales or for free. You are also welcome to send us things that you would like. (wishlist)

Categories include:

1. Toys
2. Books
3. Electronics
4. Games
5. Sports Equipment
6. Clothes (clean, in good condition)
7. Musical Instruments
8. Furniture
9. Bikes
10. Misc.



For Sale!

1. Oscar division 1, Diary of a Wimpy Kid (book 2) \$15
2. Sarah division 9, bike, it is white and pink and would be good for a 4-5 year old (has training wheels), \$20
3. Ben division 7, ipod nano, half of screen scratched out, no cord, \$10 or best offer
4. Please send us more items with a description, price and how to info on how to reach you!

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

We are very excited about our new newspaper club! Ideally we would like all classes to feel welcome to send us photos, pictures, jokes, events, field trips, and any filler (small) items. Anything that won't fit into the newsletter will be added to the blog. A big area that still needs work is finding a "Sports Reporter". Someone who goes to a lot of the tournaments and events. And a sports photographer who can work with the reporter. Hopefully it is you! In the newspaper club we are also learning how to blog, how to use flickr and how to work together to achieve success!

<http://www.gordonelementary.ca/node/48>

Newspaper Club - Wed lunchtime, grades 4-7, free
 Cooking - Mon after school, Oct 17th - Dec 5th, grades 2-4, payment
 Thinking Club - ongoing until the end of November, grades 4-7, Thurs after school, free
 Music/Theatre - Mondays after school, Oct 3rd-Dec 5th, payment
 Magic Card Mania - Tuesdays after school, Oct 4th-Nov 29th, payment
 Badminton - after spring break, grades 4-7, before school/lunch-times, free
 New Recycling Club - Grades 5-7; all welcome, free

Skipping Club - ongoing, free, grades 3-7. Mon 8:15am
 Chess Club - ongoing, lunchtime, free, all ages
 Cross Country Running Club - in the fall, day depends on grade, free, all ages
 Volleyball - in the fall, free, grades 5-7
 Comic Book Club - lunchtime, Fridays free, all ages
 Hands-on Science - Wed after school, payment
 Track and Field - starts mid April, before and after school and lunch times, depending on grade, free
 Basketball - winter and spring terms, lunchtimes and after school, free, grades 5-7



FOOD COLUMN 1

The Cooking Buzz...

by Sofie Evans

Chocolate Crinkles

Ingredients

- ¾ cup of butter
- ½ cup of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup of sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 13 oz. semi sweet chocolate chips
- ¾ cup berry sugar

Cooking stuff you will need

- large bowl
- medium bowl
- small pan
- scales
- baking tray
- whisk
- wooden spoon

Instructions

- Melt the butter in small pan.
 - Put the butter in the large bowl and add the cocoa powder and sugar. Use the whisk to beat in the eggs and vanilla extract.
 - In the medium sized bowl stir the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Slowly add this to the large bowl and mix constantly. Use the scale to measure the chocolate chips and then stir them in. Refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight.
1. Heat the oven to 350°F. Make 1 inch balls from the dough and roll them in berry sugar. Place on a baking tray and ask an adult to put them in the oven for 12 minutes or until golden brown.

Note: above recipe should state “oven” instead of “over”.

Always wash your hands before cooking. Ask an adult to help you with the oven.

Cheesy Christmas Stars

These delicious snacks are perfect for Christmas. If you need something quick and fun to make this is it! Makes up to 25 stars.

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cup of self-raising flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ cup butter
- 2/3 cup cheese finely grated
- 1 egg
- 2 tbs. of milk

Cooking stuff you will need

1. large bowl
 2. small bowl
 3. sieve
 4. wooden spoon
 5. grater
 6. pastry brush
 7. rolling pin
 8. star shaped cutter
- baking tray



1. Sift the flour and salt into the large bowl. Add the butter and rub it with your fingers to make crumbs.
2. Grate the cheese. Save a tablespoon for later. Add the rest of the cheese into a bowl and stir
3. In a small bowl beat the milk and egg – keep a tablespoon of the mixture. Add the rest into a large bowl and mix until like dough.
4. Sprinkle flour onto a clean surface. Roll out the dough until it is about 1cm thick.
5. Cut out the star shapes. Roll together scraps to make more stars.
6. Brush the stars with the egg mixture you kept and then sprinkle them with the leftover cheese.

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Grease the baking tray, add the stars and bake in the oven for 8-10 minutes or until golden.

Recipes continued on next page...

Student Reviews...

What the tasters said.....

“I loved the chocolate crinkles when they were hot, 5 stars!”

“The cheesy stars were so good I couldn’t stop eating them.....5 stars.”

“If you like chocolate, you couldn’t get a better cookie. At least 5 stars.”

A few words from the cook.

I have never made anything as easy as the cheesy Christmas stars. They smelt delicious, even from upstairs! Top tip: you can never add too much cheese. The chocolate cookies are amazing when they are still warm and gooey. Don’t add more chocolate chips.



FOOD COLUMN 2

Jingle Bell Cookie Pizza

By Sydney Young, Divison 7

Pet Horoscope

Dec. 22-Jan. 21st

Capricorn cats are sedentary cats who love their peace and quiet. They prefer their own corner of the house and they hate to be disturbed. This year will be pretty unsettling, particularly if their owner decides to move, as is most likely to happen this year. The loss of everything familiar to them will affect them so much that rather than being the sleepy, peaceful cat that they usually are, they will act like a nervous wreck, meowing loudly in complaint at the smallest things. This constant complaining can get on their owners' nerves, as well as on the nerves of other pets. An occasional pat on the head or a cuddle and caress can do a lot to assure them that everything is going to be fine.



Prep Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 30 minutes
Serving Sizes: 16

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg "Pillsbury Refrigerated Chocolate Chip or Chocolate Chunk Cookies"
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) miniature marshmallows
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) red and green "Smarties"
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) hot fudge topping, heated, if desired.

Method:

- Step 1 - Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Press out dough onto a greased 12 inch pizza pan.
- Step 2 - Bake for about 15 minutes or until it's light golden brown. Sprinkle marshmallow and smarties evenly over crust and bake 2 or 3 minutes or until marshmallows are puffed.
- Step 3 - Drizzle hot fudge topping over cookie pizza. Let it cool off and then cut it into wedges to serve.

Sagittarius Horoscope, Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, always bursting with energy are loving, optimistic and honest. Sagittarius possesses a natural exuberance that makes them one of the most optimistic zodiac signs of all. Sagittarians are well known for making their dreams true they are drawn towards whatever it is they find alluring whether it's a love partner, dream job, or vacation. They believe that anything is possible in life. Therefore they seek out their own pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Sagittarians are the happiest whenever they are traveling or outside of their natural habitat. They love to explore new cultures and ideas and many of them are attracted to anything related to travel, the media, and outdoor work. When in love Sagittarians are, undoubtedly, the most big-hearted, loving companions of all.

Sagittarians will be most popular for most of this month. Just be careful not to be burned by sticking up for someone who lets you down. Because you tend to be optimistic and naive don't forget that every action has consequences. And you will really feel those consequences when Mercury goes back in your sign on the 23rd. Get things done before the 23rd - especially when it comes to bill paying and making big decisions and big purchases. Do something extraordinary this month, before November 23 - December 14. Make your mark on the world and spread some happiness along the way.



FASHION

Boots and Feathers for Winter

by Savannah Sears



Clothes that are fashionable right now are boots, hair feathers and scarves. Boots are comfy and stylish. Boots come in different shapes and sizes. Right now, long boots and short boots are in style. This winter, boot fashion has not changed much from last year. Last year Ugg Boots were more in style, while now leather type of boots are stylish. Boots that you would wear at the office are more casual. You can get boots at the Shoe Warehouse, Plenty, Winners, and sometimes at H&M. The cost of boots is around \$15 to \$30. In some places, they are up to \$50.



Hair feathers are made in lots of colours; they make your hair textured and fun. Last winter, hair feathers were more popular than this year. Fabrics that are used for hair feathers are feathers and metal. The price for hair feathers is around \$2 to \$12. You can buy them at some hair salons for \$2.

Last, but not least, are scarves. You can get scarves at many places such as Plenty, H&M and many other places. More of the cotton and knitted scarves are in style now. Usually scarves are made out of cotton and wool. More casual scarves are worn today. The price of scarves are usually around \$3 to \$8. Scarves are a fun way to shake up your outfit; try different styles to make it work.

The Gordon Buzz Newsletter

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Contributions from all Gordon students are welcome in the form of: articles, stories, illustrations, interviews, research and photographs. Contributions must be submitted at least a week prior to publication and must be sent via e-mail to Christie Sandford: christiesandford@yahoo.com or Elke Porter at: gordon.buzz@yahoo.com or placed on the blog. The Newspaper Club reserves the right to review and edit contributions for appropriateness (sensitivity to mutual respect, equality and differences in culture, gender, race and other social contexts); grammar, length and clarity. Opinions expressed are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the view of General Gordon Elementary.

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Helping You Say What You Mean

PORTER PR



BOOK REVIEW

The Pendragon Series

By Ben Macphail

Sponsors Wanted!!

The students at General Gordon Elementary now have a newspaper, The Gordon Buzz.

General Gordon Elementary stands behind the philosophy that high value be placed upon open, inclusive and creative expression of ideas, building meaningful relationships and understanding quality. They also encourage us, as students, to gain knowledge through enjoyable experiences of collaboration and responsibility.

We would like to offer you an opportunity to become an integral promoter of valuable high quality and positive educational experiences for the students of our community school, General Gordon Elementary. Please add your professional sponsorship to our school newspaper, The Gordon Buzz. Professional Writers in our community have offered us journalistic mentorship opportunities, and your financial involvement will also definitely contribute to further our awareness of the value and power of written communication and to learn practical applications of modern technology. This collaborative effort would result in a mutually beneficial school-business relationship. In return for your support, The Gordon Buzz will increase your positive public mention through strategic written gratitude (possibilities of an ad?) placement in our widely read and popular newspaper.

Please consider our offer as a sign of good faith in the generous motives of our community neighbours.!

Looking for an exciting read? Today I am going to open up a window to the adventures of Bobby Pendragon. At the age of just fourteen, Bobby discovers that he is part of the newest generation of a mysterious group of people called Travelers. The Travelers' job is to save Halla from ultimate destruction from an evil shape-shifting demon Traveler called Saint Dane, who wants nothing less than the dismantling of humanity. Have I got your attention yet? It gets worse. Halla is every territory, every person, every living thing, every time there ever was.

When Bobby's Uncle Press comes to Bobby for a "favour", Bobby finds himself leaving his comfy suburb home of Stony Brook, Connecticut to a flume in an abandoned subway station in the Bronx of New York, where he travels through time and space to uncover and foil the evil plots of Saint Dane. Along the way he meets lifelong friends and enemies while maintaining contact with his two best friends Mark and Courtney through journal entries.

My favourite character is Loor, a calm, cool and collected professional warrior, as muscle packed as they come and a loyal true friend. A terrible moment in Book 6 pushes her to the brink of death, and Bobby's attempts to save her are heartfelt and crucial, to her survival and ultimately his own. As his adventure continues, he starts to question his destiny and true identity.

Each book brings a new and exciting twist in his struggles to survive in underwater worlds, desert lands, lands of false paradise, and many others, each called a "territory." There are ten territories on the brink of annihilation, therefore there are ten books. I'm reading number ten right now and can't wait to find out what happens at the end of the Pendragon Series.





The HONEYBEES

If there is something that you always wondered about, or a question that you always wanted the answer to, please leave a note for the Honeybees - Petunia, Perriwinkle & Daisy - in the box by the school office! Serious inquiries only, please!

AN ADVICE COLUMN LIKE NO OTHER



Hi Honeybees,

Every day after school, I have to pick up my sister in East Van. Is there a way to convince my mom that I can stay home alone while she goes to East Van? We live in downtown, so can you help me come up with some ideas to convince my mom?
Sincerely, ??????????????????????

Dear ??????????????????????,

I think I get what you are trying to say, but it sounds like there is no real way to solve your problem the way that you want to. If your mom drives from downtown, to Gordon to pick you up at your school, and then to East Vancouver to pick up your sister, she saves a lot of time. Instead of her going back and forth twice. Try to make the ride more enjoyable, maybe this is a time for you to talk with your mom, or you could spend the time telling jokes. You can get a recording of a book on tape or 2 books of mad-libs.

Good luck!

Daisy.

Dear Honeybees,

I am an "Aspberger child". I have an S.E.A and everything. Unfortunately, Whenever there is a substitute teacher, I get nervous and wonder if I should ask for a break or not. When I do ask they don't know what I'm talking about. I need to have breaks sometimes, And when I do, I tell the teacher. But subs don't know that I'm an "Aspberger child". I think that a lot of "Aspberger children" need to know the answer to this,

From: No Nervousness Now

Dear No Nervousness Now,

I know sometimes it can be hard having a substitute because they don't know the usual class room routine at all! So I suggest you either ask your teacher to leave a note about how you need breaks for the next substitute you have and also get one of your parents to write a note as well that you can keep at school in case your teacher might have forgotten to write the note. You can also talk to your S.E.A. for advice.

No worries!

Petunia

Dear Honeybees,

I really like this guy but I never talk to him and I want to know how to get him to ask me out. I love him sooooo much!

From: Lover girl

Dear Lover girl,

First off:
Does he already have a girlfriend? if so, forget him.
If he's not a jerk and actually a nice guy, Try starting up a conversation about something you have in common? Try not to sound desperate.
If he still doesn't ask you, try asking him!
If he says no, maybe he's just as dense as pound cake.
You go girl!

Perriwinkle





RANDOM THOUGHTS

What captain would YOU put under the following pictures? - if you get chosen, your caption will get added to the next edition, along with your name & division! E-mail answers to gordon.buzz@yahoo.com or give to Ms. Davidson...

Caption Contest



Library News

The whole school has been thinking and writing creatively! Mr. Wiz (otherwise known as Lee Edward Fode, our visiting author) has been leading all classes K – Gr.7 in creative writing workshops. We have talked about heroes, villains, kingdoms, monsters and more. This is the first time we have had the same author K – 7 since authors who can do this are rare. This “whole school” experience is generating a lot of discussion about writers all over the school.

Thank you very much to the PAC for generously supporting this event, as they have supported so many author visits over the years.



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1. First & Last Name
2. E-Mail Address
3. Your E-Mail (just in case)

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