

Choose to

be...

KIND,

SAFE,

FAIR!

**GENERAL GORDON
ELEMENTARY**

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Introduction to the Quality School Model

Four principals and almost fifteen years ago, General Gordon School was introduced to Dr. William Glasser's Quality School initiative by Rolf Ahrens, then principal. The staff agreed to undertake training in the principles and practices of the Quality School and its philosophical foundation, Choice Theory. As with any philosophy, model or program, however, the Quality School initiative has been adapted to meet the unique needs of Gordon School.

It is the intention at Gordon School that students are taught choice theory so they may better understand their own and others' behaviour. This leads to making responsible choices and experiencing 'needs satisfaction.' The Quality School approach is reflected in the Gordon School Guiding Beliefs and in the Gordon Belief Statement, as follows.

Gordon School Guiding Beliefs

We believe that Gordon School should provide an environment that is 'needs satisfying' for all the people who work here.

We believe that Gordon School should be a safe, pleasant and clean place where people cooperate, are respectful, friendly, kind and courteous; where we can feel good about ourselves and where all have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities.

We believe that all who work at Gordon should have a say in what is learned in an atmosphere of open communication that leads to: meaningful relationships; useful and satisfying work; an understanding of what quality is; and, finally, an ability to self-evaluate.

We believe that all who work at Gordon School can and should make choices about what and how they learn and exercise the responsibility that goes with making choices without interfering with the ability of others to make choices.

We believe that Gordon should be a place where people enjoy spending their time; where we can take pleasure in the company of others; where we can learn, be creative and challenge ourselves mentally and physically.

School Hours of Operation

Grade 1 to 7 Students

Monday	8:40 - 3:05
Tuesday	8:40 - 3:05
Wednesday	8:40 - 12:05
Thursday	8:40 - 3:05
Friday	8:40 - 3:05

Please note: Wednesday is an early dismissal day.

Kindergarten Hours

Morning Kindergarten	8:40 am – 11:30 am
Morning Kindergarten	8:40 am – 12 (Wednesday, 12:05)
Afternoon Kindergarten	12:50 pm - 3:05 pm (no class on Wednesday afternoon)
Note: Morning and Afternoon Kindergarten change am/pm hours 2009 February 2	

Daily Schedule

7:30 a.m.	Out-of-School Care Program Begins
8:25 a.m.	Supervision begins
8:40 a.m.	Entry bell
8:45 a.m.	Morning session begins
10:15 a.m.	Junior recess begins (Kindergarten-Grade 3)
10:30 a.m.	Junior recess ends Senior recess begins (Grades 4-7)
10:45 a.m.	Senior recess ends
12:00 p.m.	Lunch begins
12:20 p.m.	Noon-hour games begin
12:50 p.m.	Entry bell
12:55 p.m.	Afternoon session begins
12:05 p.m.	Wednesday afternoon dismissal
3:05 p.m.	Dismissal (Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Friday)
3:20 p.m.	Afternoon supervision ends

**General Gordon Elementary School
2008- 2009 School Calendar**

Number of Days in Session	194
Number of Days of Instruction	187
Minimum Hours of Instruction in a School Year	Kindergarten: 187 x 2.4 hours = 448.80 hours Grades 1-7: 187 X 4.75 hours = 888.25 hours
Minutes of Instruction each day in a School Week	Wednesday - 185 minutes All other week days - 310 minutes
Length of each school day in a School Week	Wed 8:40 am – 12:05 pm All other days 8:40 am – 3:05 pm
Number/Length of Recesses per day	1 @ 15 minutes
Minutes of Operation each day in a School Week	School Open 8:15 to 3:35 daily except for the 12:35 close on Wednesday
Number of School Weeks	40
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non-Instructional Days 1 Administration Day (June 26)
SPECIFIC PROVINCIAL DATES - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 02
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, November 11
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 19
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 22 to Friday, January 02
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 05
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 13
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20
School re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 23
Good Friday	Friday, April 10
Easter Monday	Monday, April 13
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 25
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 26
NON INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS / PART DAYS (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)	
Friday, September 5 - school closed all day	Social Responsibility
Wednesday, October 15 - pupils dismissed at 11:00am	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conferences
Thursday, October 16 - pupils dismissed at 2:00pm	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conferences
Friday, October 24 - school closed all day	Provincial Professional Development Day
Monday, November 17 - school closed all day	Literacy
Tuesday, January 20 - school closed all day	Numeracy
Wednesday, Feb. 4 - pupils dismissed at 11:00am	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conferences
Thursday, Feb. 5 - pupils dismissed at 2:00pm	Parent/Teacher Report Card Conference
Friday, February 20 - school closed all day	Literacy/Numeracy
Thursday, April 9 - school closed all day	Program/Curriculum Review

General Information

Recess

There are five supervisors responsible during recess: three paid supervision aides and the principal and vice-principal. General Gordon has Junior (Kindergarten to Grade 3) and Senior (Grades 4 to 7) recesses:

- Junior recess – 10:15 to 10:30 am
- Senior recess – 10:30 to 10:45 am

The Junior and Senior recesses were instituted in order to give the younger children access to the playground and equipment without having to compete with the older students. The program benefits both groups.

Students are asked to be appropriately dressed for the weather conditions of the day. Should weather conditions dictate otherwise, an announcement is made from the office indicating that the students may go to the Library, go to the lunchroom to play a quiet activity or go to the basement.

Students will be allowed to remain in the office if requested by their teacher or if a parent has made such a request for medical reasons.

Lunch

Lunch is from 12 to 12:50 p.m. All children who eat lunch at school are expected to remain on the school grounds. Children must be accompanied by a parent or authorized adult if they wish to leave the school grounds. There are three supervision aides who supervise during lunch.

Gordon School is fortunate in having the VSB Hot Lunch Program available. Menus are provided each month and families are able to pre-order hot & healthy lunches at the end of each month for the next month. Generally, the cost is \$50 for a full month of hot lunches. Students going on a field trip who are on the Hot Lunch Program are provided with a bag lunch to take with them.

Students in Grades 1 to 5 eat in the lunchroom. Grades 6 and 7 students may eat lunch in the Girls' Basement or outside. If the classroom teacher chooses to supervise, students may remain in their room to eat lunch.

Although it is discouraged for safety and nutrition reasons, children in grades six and seven may leave the school grounds during lunch on Friday, with the understanding that their parents have signed a permission slip. These slips are kept by the classroom teacher. Students, who leave the grounds without a note, return late or behave inappropriately while off the school grounds, may lose their privilege of going off the grounds at noon for a period of time.

The Safe Arrival Program

The Safe Arrival Program, as its name suggests, has been set up to ensure that your child arrives safely at school. Student monitors collect the attendance sheets of all classes each morning and bring them to the school secretary, Ms. Grant, who then monitors each sheet. If your child is going to be absent or late, it is essential that you call the school at 713-5403 and leave a message.

Supervision Before and After School

General supervision is provided each school morning between 8:25 and 8:40 a.m. when the first bell sounds. Please do not drop children off before this time unless they are: enrolled in Jericho Kids Club; are attending a team practice; or unless prior arrangements have been made. After school, hall and playground supervision is from 3:05 to 3:20 p.m. After 3:20, children should be home or supervised by a parent or guardian unless attending JKC or a school-sponsored activity. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lateness

It is expected that students arrive at school to begin class at the times outlined in this handbook. In the event that your child will be arriving late (illness, doctor, dentist, etc.), please leave a message at the Office. It is essential that any child arriving at school after 8:45 am check in at the office before going to class.

Student Accidents and Illness

First aid for minor cuts and scrapes, bumps, nosebleeds, etc. will be carried out by a member of the office or teaching staff. If a student is conscious and requires medical attention, e.g. broken bones, severe cuts, etc. the calls will be made in the following order:

- PARENT will be contacted.
- TRANSPORTATION will be arranged by parent, staff or person designated by parents.

If a student is unconscious or seriously injured, telephone calls will be made in the following order:

- AMBULANCE 911
- The pupil's PARENT or designated adult

If a student becomes ill at school, a staff member will determine whether or not the parent should be contacted. Students will not be given permission to go home if the parent or designated adult has not been contacted.

Health and Safety

The school has an active Health and Safety Committee that conducts periodic audits of the school buildings and grounds. Please let the Office know if you see any unsafe conditions.

School Supplies

Each family is required to pay a \$25 supply fee per child. Kindergarten children pay \$12.50. The fee covers most basic consumable school supplies.

Appropriate Clothing

Children have physical education classes at least two times a week. It is important for their comfort and safety that they wear runners or shoes, shorts and a T-shirt. Gym strip is required for children in grade 4 to 7. Items of clothing should be clearly marked with the student's name and stored in a gym bag.

As children are expected to spend most recesses and lunch hours outside, many families find it useful for their children to keep a pair of rubber boots and a pair of indoor runners at school at all times.

Lost and Found

Lots of clothing, backpacks, lunch kits, etc. are found around the school. These items are placed by the school lost and found rack in the basement. Everyone helps keep it tidy by hanging up clothes as they pass by. At the end of each term, unclaimed items are donated to charity. We recommend that all articles be well-labeled with your child's name.

Bicycles / Skateboards / Inline Skates / Scooters

Please lock bikes up at the bike rack on the north (6th Avenue) and west (Bayswater) side of the school only. Other areas of the school are out of view and bikes can be more easily damaged or stolen. Students must walk their bicycles on and off the school grounds. If skateboards, in-line skates or scooters are brought to school, they are not to be used on the grounds, in the hallways or at lunch. These items should be stored in lockers for the day. Also, scooters should be folded before entering the building and remain so until the student has left the grounds after school. **Students may use these on the school grounds only after 3:30 pm each day.**

Traffic Safety

Please note the "NO STOPPING" signs directly in front of the school. Parents are asked to drop students off in the non-congested area near the school.

Several "near miss" accidents have occurred on Bayswater/6th Avenue and on 7th Avenue by the East fence of the school. Please encourage your children to exercise extreme caution when crossing these or any streets on their way to and from school.

Student Pick-Up

If there is a change in routine – for example, a visiting aunt is to pick up a grade 1 student after school – the classroom teacher must be notified in advance.

Communication

Reporting to Parents

School reports let parents know how their children are progressing both academically and socially. There are three formal written report cards during the school year: late November or early December; before the Spring Break; and at the end of June. Primary reports are anecdotal and Intermediate reports contain both anecdotal comments and letter grades. 2008/2009 dates of parent/teacher conferences will be noted in the newsletter and are listed under "School Calendar."

Besides three written reports, parents are provided with a minimum of two informal, oral reports. Teachers determine how they will communicate informally with parents. Examples of informal reporting are student/parent/teacher meetings; student-led conferences; phone calls, etc.

Other student/parent/teacher conferences may take place throughout the year at the request of any party. Please feel free to make an appointment to speak with the classroom teacher.

Concerns

If parents have any concerns or questions regarding practices or activities occurring in their child's classroom, they are invited to discuss these concerns directly with the classroom teacher.

Newsletter

The *Gordon Gazette* (our school newsletter) is written every second week by the Principal. You can opt to have a paper copy sent home with your child, an email notice sent to you when it is posted on our website, or both.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held approximately twice a month. The purpose of these assemblies is to promote school unity, share information and allow children and visiting performers to make presentations. These assemblies are coordinated by staff and led by students. Parents are welcome to attend assemblies. Assembly dates are posted in the newsletter and on the Parent Information Board in the front hall.

Messages From Home

We encourage you, as parents, to telephone the school or write a note to your child's teacher or principal to share information that is important for your child's well-being. While teachers are not usually available to come to the telephone during class hours, they are pleased to return your phone call after instructional hours.

Use of School Telephone and Payphone

Demand on the use of telephones is high. Student use of the office telephone is restricted to essential use (phoning home due to illness, unforeseen circumstances). A pay phone is available for parents and students who wish to use the telephone for personal use.

Gordon Programs

6/7 Late French Immersion Program

Gordon School is fortunate to have one of the two district Late Immersion Programs. Each year there is an intake of grade 6 students to the program arriving from all Vancouver Schools west of Main Street. There are approximately 90 students enrolled in the four classes (two grade six, two grade seven). Students completing the program have developed a functional knowledge of French, with most moving on to the French Immersion program at Kitsilano Secondary School. Information meetings for registering in the Grade 6 Late French Immersion Program are held early in the New Year, usually January. Applications with supporting documentation are due by the end of January and are accepted up to the maximum intake number of 60. If more than 60 applications are received, a draw for placement occurs.

Many years, the grade 7 students, accompanied by their teachers and, often, the Vice-Principal or Principal, spend a week in Quebec as an extension to the late French Immersion Program. This has proved to be a wonderful experience for all those involved.

3/4 Multi-Age Cluster Class French Immersion Program

General Gordon will be hosting a Grade 3/4 French Immersion MACC class for the year 2008-2009. We would like to welcome these new students and their families to General Gordon. These students have been identified as gifted through a referral and assessment process.

French as a Second Language (FSL)

French as a second language is currently taught to Grades 5 to 7 students. The emphasis of the program is to provide opportunities for the learner to develop an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, to learn basic French and to gain confidence in his or her own abilities as a learner and as a user of the French language.

Teacher-Advisor Groups

At the beginning of each school year, all Grade 1-7 students choose or are assigned a teacher or staff member (including the teacher-librarian, music specialist, area counsellor, and the administrators) – other than their own classroom teacher – to become their Teacher-Advisor. This program gives students an adult advocate outside of their own classroom. At any time during the school week, students may ask to go to their TA's room. This may occur for a variety of reasons, including completing assignments in a quieter place, etc. As part of the behaviour program at the school, students may also be sent to their TA's classroom until the next logical break in the day. They must do this in response to a signal from their teacher. Often, children have the option to return to their class with changed behaviour, or when they have developed a plan to alter behaviour.

Parents may be contacted at any stage to participate in the process. This program is under constant evaluation and teachers continue to try to fine-tune the process to better meet the needs of their class and the individual students.

Library Resource Centre

Our library houses a collection of learning resources. It includes fiction, non-fiction, print and non-print. These resources support the school curriculum and the collection is bilingual.

Using the centre's multiple resources, the classroom teacher and teacher librarian plan together to develop learner-focused curriculum that considers individual student interest, abilities and learning styles.

The library is staffed by a full-time teacher librarian, parent volunteers and student monitors. It is usually open before and after school for book borrowing.

During class time, the library is accessible to individuals and small groups; however, the teacher librarian is required to provide coverage for teacher preparation during 20% of the week. This means – as in all schools in Vancouver and, indeed, the province – that the teacher librarian is not fully available to meet the needs of individuals who come to the library.

Class visits to the library are planned cooperatively by the teacher librarian and individual classroom teacher. Each class has the opportunity to visit the library to develop research skills and to help nurture the love of reading.

For information access, there are two computers with a variety of disks and on-line capabilities. Books and other library materials may be borrowed for a two-week period. Please help us by ensuring that children return books on time.

Technology

Each classroom, from Kindergarten to Grade 7, has a computer with Internet capabilities. There are also computers in the library. Gordon's school web site address is: gordon.vsb.bc.ca. General Gordon School also has a computer lab housing approximately 25 computers at one time. We have also purchased two smart boards, one in the library and one in a classroom.

Gordon School's profile is on the Vancouver School Board's web site: www.vsb.bc.ca.

Music

Classes receive music instruction from a music specialist once or twice weekly.

Field Trips

Field trips are a means of enhancing programs offered in the classroom. Prior to any field trip, parents are notified in writing with the details of the planned trip. Before students are permitted to take part in a field trip, they must have written consent from the parent or guardian. Parent volunteer drivers are also requested to fill out a "Volunteer Driver Registration and Approval" form at the Office for insurance purposes.

Parents are generally asked to subsidize field trip expenses; however, VSB policy ensures that no student will miss the opportunity to take part in a field trip for financial reasons. Families who may need a subsidy are asked to contact the Principal.

Outdoor Education

Many classes participate in some outdoor education experience during the year. This is an important part of the year's program. Depending on their age group and the class they're in, students may spend time camping, skiing or hiking. The purpose of these expeditions is:

- to learn about issues of conservation and environmental awareness.
- to learn self-reliance and personal organizational skills in a non-school setting.
- to learn to cooperate socially and as a member of a team.

Students are prepared before they leave. A fee is charged for the programs. Those students not participating in the experience attend school as usual (they are accommodated in another classroom) or parents may elect to have their child stay home.

Student Council

The Student Council is elected in late September. This consists of a President, Vice-President and two Special Events Coordinators. Each class elects one or two class representatives. Student Council meets once a week to discuss and plan social events for students and deal with student issues and requests that are raised in classes and brought to the council by the class representative/s. The student council is sponsored by the Principal and a staff member.

Clubs

Clubs, sponsored by staff members, meet during lunch time one to three times a week. They may include activities such as drama, fine arts, library and office monitors, referees, chess, student PA announcers and peer [helpers](#)

Peer Helpers

This is a program currently being offered in the school for grade 5, 6 and 7 students. The purpose of the Peer Helper Program is to assist a group of approximately 25 students to develop improved communication, problem solving skills and leadership skills, in order to provide on-going services to the younger students at Gordon. This program has been facilitated by the Vice-Principal. The students selected to be Peer Helpers have to complete a formal application signed by their parents and two staff members, as well as participate in an informal interviewing process. Once selected, the Peer Helpers begin their training by participating in a full day retreat, to facilitate group development and cohesiveness. After the retreat, the students continue training every second week during the noon hour in the school library. Once trained, some of the services the Peer Helpers provide in the school are: school tours for new students and parents; primary games over the lunch hours; office phone monitors; and assisting with individual students who may need some extra friendship support.

Buddy Programs:

Teachers get together in buddy classes having intermediate students working with their primary student buddies. Some of the activities that are shared are reading, art, dance, drama and working with our 8 qualities around Social Responsibility.

PA Announcers

This service club consists of Intermediate students who are interested in reading the daily announcements over the PA system at the beginning of the day. The students have to complete an application, which is supported by their classroom teacher.

Noon Hour Games and Activities

Providing that staff sponsors are available, noon hour games are scheduled October to March, from 12:20 to 12:50 p.m. They include activities such as Dance Club or Drama Club; or games such as moss ball, indoor soccer, double dodge ball and volleyball.

Inter-School Games

Students may have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of sports throughout the year, depending upon sponsors and coaches available. The district Inter-School sports schedule is as follows:

Cross Country	Held early in the Fall. Students from all grades are welcome to train and run. Co-educational.
Soccer	Held early in the Fall. Grade 6 and 7 students are eligible.
Volleyball	Held late in the Fall. Grade 6 and 7 students are eligible.
Basketball	Held in early Winter. Grade 6 and 7 students are eligible.
Football	Held in April, May. June.
Track and Field	Held in the Spring. Students in grades 4 to 7 are eligible. Co-educational.

N.B. Not all sports are offered each year.

Multi-Craft Woodworking Program

Gordon has a full woodworking facility downstairs in the basement. Students have made various projects (wooden cards, clocks, etc.). Although we have a few staff members who have the skills to use this facility, we are always in search of volunteers willing to work with a small group of children on various projects. If that's you, please give the Principal a call.

Sports Day

Sports Day is usually the Friday immediately before the Victoria Day weekend. In the last few years, the Gordon Sports Day has had a special theme – different each year – and has been well-received by the children and community.

Beach Day

This active celebration for the entire school is held during the last week of classes in June at Jericho Beach, weather permitting.

Welcome BBQ

At the beginning of the school year an evening BBQ is held as a venue for parents to meet their child's teacher, as well as other VSB and community groups that may work with your child. This is also an opportunity for new parents to meet and returning parents to reconnect.

Winter Concert and Craft Fair

The music teacher coordinates a concert performed by all the classes in the school. The accompanying winter fair gives students a venue to sell their home made jewelry, cards and other gifts.

Spring Fling

The Spring Fling is a springtime fair, with games, plant sale, flea market, an auction, food and crafts. It is a community celebration, as well as a fundraiser.

Daycare - Jericho Kids Club

Jericho Kids' Club (JKC) is a fully licensed out of school care program that operates on-site at General Gordon. Care is available for children from kindergarten through grade 12, before and after school and all day on professional development days and school holidays. Hours of operation are between 7:30am and 6:00pm. Depending on space availability children may be accommodated at the Bayview location. Some limited part time space may also be available.

Please contact the JKC office at 604-736-4080 or visit their website at Jerichokidsclub.com for more information.

Recycling

The School Board maintains a contract to recycle school paper and cardboard waste.

The school PAC recycles plastic and glass and metal bottles and cans, through a contract with Encorp. The recycling center is in the basement. Please bring in your recycling and sort it into the bins.

School-Based Learning Support for Students

Resource Team: LAC (Learning Assistance Centre) and ESL (English-as-a-Second Language)

The students at Gordon, both in the English and the French Immersion program, have access to additional teaching support from a school-based learning support teacher, as needed. In the French Immersion program, there is a Learning Assistance teacher to support the four immersion classes. In the English program, there is currently a full-time and part-time ESL/LAC teacher. These teachers provide support to students based on a “Resource Team” Model. Under this model, the support teachers divide up the English classes and provide any additional learning support as needed to their assigned classes (learning assistance, ESL support, gifted referral support, informal assessment, attendance at SBT meetings, etc.). This model allows one support teacher to become very familiar with a limited number of classes, which allows for more meaningful and efficient support for the students and more consistent and manageable communication between the support teacher and the classroom teacher.

School-Based Team (SBT)

Gordon continues to have a School-Based Team that consists of the Principal/Vice-Principal, LAC teacher, the school counsellor, and the referring classroom teacher. Other specialists may also be present depending on the needs and relationship to the student being discussed. The purpose of these team meetings is to share knowledge about children with special needs; to access Area, District, and Community support as needed; to assess and evaluate student progress; to assist with designing strategies to meet the special needs; and to document the needs and support provided for the student. Referrals to SBT are made through any of the team members in consultation with the classroom teacher.

If all of the school-based supports available have been offered over a consistent period of time and a student continues to have learning difficulties, then a request for a formal assessment of the student’s learning potential and performance (a psycho-educational assessment) may be requested. This request for assessment usually involves a VSB psychologist and speech and language pathologist.

School Counsellor

Gordon provides the services of a school counsellor two days each week. The counsellor works with the students, parents and teachers and provides a liaison between the school and district services. Students are most often referred by their classroom teacher. Parents may request an appointment with the counsellor by phoning the school at 604-713-5403.

School Nurse

A school nurse is in attendance at the school intermittently throughout the month. Contact at other times can be made through the Pacific Spirit Health Centre at (604) 261-6366.

Medication

If it is necessary for school staff to administer medication to your child, please:

1. Contact the office.
2. Obtain a "Request to Administer Medication" form and provide a written order from your physician which will be placed on file.
3. Provide the appropriate medication.

This service is offered to those students on long-term, daily medication.

Police Liaison Program

In conjunction with the Vancouver Police Department, we are able to have a liaison officer who visits our school. In past years, the officer has conducted classroom programs which stress safety, awareness, responsibility and respect for community laws and standards. The program aims to teach children that police officers are their friends and are there to help them. Our School Liaison Officer (SLO) is headquartered at Kitsilano Secondary School.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

The school has a very active, inclusive and involved parent group, which works closely with the staff and principal. In addition to organizing school events and fundraising functions, PAC takes an active interest in the classroom life of the school and affairs of the district as a whole.

Parents of children attending Gordon are automatically members of the PAC and are invited to attend all general meetings. The school principal, teachers and members of the Student Council are also invited to attend PAC meetings. PAC meeting minutes are posted on the notice board in the main hallway and on the school website.

PAC meetings are held the last Monday of each month 6:45-8:45pm in the school library. However, there are many parents who cannot or prefer not to attend PAC meetings, who are very involved in the school.

PAC maintains the school website (www.gordonelementary.ca), where school events, run by PAC and/or staff, are posted, as well as PAC budget, minutes, newsletters, and other issues relating to PAC.

School Planning Council (SPC)

The School Planning Council is an advisory body whose major responsibility is to consult with the school community in developing, monitoring and reviewing the School Plan for improving student achievement.

The School Planning Council consists of the Principal, Vice-Principal and three parents elected by secret ballot in November of each year. The SPC representatives come from the Parent Advisory Council (one parent must be on the PAC Executive).

School Plan

During the 2008/2009 school year, General Gordon's goals are stated as the intention "to improve students' literacy skills, with a continued focus specifically on reading and reading comprehension; and to continue to enhance Social Responsibility in the Gordon School community, with a particular focus on personal qualities of character in choosing to be Kind, Safe and Fair."

You can see details of the School Plan on the Vancouver School Board website.

The Gordon School Plan goals were endorsed by the Gordon staff and – on behalf of parents – the School Planning Council (SPC) in June, 2008.

Greening Committee

With the help of our Greening Committee and the support of the Vancouver School Board Grounds Department, our playground has been transformed, particularly on the south side. A butterfly garden, new lawns, trees and a shade garden have all been created as learning and recreational resources. Community work parties have been held to build gardens, fences and maintain the area. Annual support for “Greening” is held each year at the Gordon “Spring Fling.” Contact PAC if you would like to join the Greening Committee.

Parents for Science (P4S)

Parents for Science (P4S) are a volunteer-based association of parents who share an interest in the promotion of science education in the elementary school. Please phone the principal if you are interested in becoming involved.

Cultural Events

In order to provide a rich cultural experience for our children, PAC contributes funding in addition to that provided by the School Board, so that we can offer several cultural events per year. This allows for a varied program including dance, puppetry, mime, drama, storytelling and music, Aboriginal Celebration.