

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
2268 Bayswater St.
Vancouver, BC V6K 4P5
☎713-5403 Fax 713-5405
Website: go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/gordon

Safe Arrival ☐ 713-5403 # 1

Principal: Marion Broadbent
Field Services Director: Magdalena Kassis
Superintendent: Suzanne Hoffman

Vice Principal : Deb Routledge
Administrative Assistant: Heidi Leung
PAC Co-Chairs: Suzan Saykam
Victoria Bonn

2019 September 19

Newsletter #1

MAIN SCHOOL HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

Recess-10:30-10:45am

Lunch-12:00-12:15 pm (Eat)

12:15-12:47pm (Play)

Supervision for students at recess and lunch

Supervision in the mornings on the playground for students 8:40-9:00am

Supervision after school on the playground 3:00-3:20pm

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Thur. Sept. 19	PIE Coffee Morning 9-10am at School in Staffroom
Monday, Sept 23	PAC Meeting in Library 6:30 – 8pm
Friday Sept. 27	Terry Fox Run 2 to 3pm
Tuesday Oct 1	Orange Shirt Day
Monday, Sept. 30	Professional Day – No School
Wednesday, Oct. 2	Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2pm
Friday, Oct. 4	Individual Student Photos
Monday, Oct. 14	Thanksgiving – No school
Thursday, Oct 17	PIE Coffee Morning
Friday, Oct. 25	Professional Day – No School
Monday, Oct. 28	PAC Meeting 6:30pm
Thursday, Oct. 31	Halloween Parade 9-9:30am

SCHOOL NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Gordon Parents;

It was very rewarding to see so many parents here for our Meet the Teacher evening. Meeting and connecting with your child's teacher(s) is important and going forward should you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to make an appointment with the teacher. Sharing positive feedback or worries is best done promptly so that all parties can continue to work together in a positive way.

As I am sure you are aware we have been having Gordon Gatherings (GG) in the morning as soon as the students arrive at school. We have been talking about ways to be respectful, kind, safe and fair at school. The students have been showing how they are able to enter the gym in a very quiet, respectful manner. Mr. Nylund, our resident artist, has painted a beautiful tree on the gym glass window in the hall and the students are going to place leaves on the tree to acknowledge what they have done to contribute to our respectful school culture. An area of focus in the next few weeks is the stairs and hallways. We have been noticing some very unsafe running and pushing on the stairs.

Next week you will be receiving a colourful, glossy pamphlet that outlines our Code of Conduct that clearly outlines expected behaviours in the various areas of the school: washrooms, hallways, stairs, classrooms, lunchroom, playgrounds etc. We would appreciate if you took a moment to go over these with your children.

I have been asked by our PAC Executive to share with you dates of the various VSB team sports. These team sports are always dependent on staff volunteering to be a VSB sponsor and/or coach. If there are parents who have some expertise in the various sports and are willing to help, please let Admin know. Below the calendar that was posted by the VEPPA.

Have a great weekend, Sincerely, Marion Broadbent, Principal & Deb Routledge, Vice Principal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

SEPT 16 – Soccer League Begins – 5 weeks of League Play (Intermediate Grades)
16 – Cross Country Begins – 5 weeks including Mini Meets (All Grades)

OCT 17 – Cross Country Championships @ Trout Lake
23 – Soccer Finals @ Vancouver Technical Secondary
28 – Volleyball League Begins – 5 weeks of League Play (Intermediate Grades)

DEC 4/5 – Volleyball City Championships Tournaments (Seniors)
12 – Volleyball City Championship Finals

JAN 20 – Basketball Leagues Start (Seniors)

FEB 26/27 - March Madness (Gr. 7) Basketball Championships

MAR 2-5 - March Madness (Gr. 7) Basketball

APR 2 – Badminton Leagues Start (Intermediate)

MAY – Track and Field Starts (All Grades)

GRASS FIELD CLOSED – You may have noticed our grass field is fenced off. Due to some of our concerns about the enormous pot holes on the field, the VSB Grounds crew has levelled the field and seeded. This will hopefully help mitigate some of the huge puddles that form when it rains. We are not going to leave the fencing up for too long, but we will give it just enough time to allow the ground a chance to absorb the new soil and let the grass seed germinate; otherwise we will be back to the same issues again. We have created a separate area on the gravel field for Primary students to play soccer. We have asked the Intermediate students to share and be aware of the little ones too.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents

Our biggest concern at these times of the day is SAFETY. The front of the school on Bayswater is a DROP OFF ZONE only; that means that drivers cannot leave their cars, they can stop and let the student out of the car and then continue on.

Please do not Drop Off and Pick Up at the dead end of 7th Avenue nor in the alley behind the staff parking. There is parking on 6th Avenue.

Students

We really encourage parents to park a block away and walk in.

All students are to line up at the beginning of the day in the area designated by their teacher. The teacher and the SSA will meet the students at the line-up and will go up to the class with all the students; therefore, we encourage all parents to be on time.

A few tips from our Supervision Aides

All students should be dressed for the weather. For the younger students it is advisable to have an extra change of clothes in case of an accident. It is also very helpful if students have their names in their clothing. It really helps the Supervision Aides to return items left outside to students.

A few tips for our Teachers

Teachers really enjoyed meeting and sharing classroom routines with the parents of their students. If you were not able to attend please take a moment in the near future to introduce yourself to your child's teacher.

If you are intending on being away for an extended period of time please let the office know. It is also important to know that teachers are not responsible for preparing a homework package for the student.

Just for your information going forward, teachers do not write letters of recommendation for application to private schools.

HOT LUNCH – We are hoping to start our HOT LUNCH program the week of Sept. 23. Please watch for more information on this program in an email blast next week. Once the hot lunch program begins we plan for it to be happening regularly on Mondays and Thursdays.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER FORMS – If you are planning on driving for field trips this year you will need to come in prior to the trip to get a Driver Form. This gives you extra insurance while transporting children. Please also bring in a copy of your license as the Administrators need to check it prior to signing the form. Along with the volunteer driver form we will be asking you to read and sign a Volunteer Conduct Agreement.

DON'T FORGET TO REGULARLY CHECK OUR WEBSITE:

Please bookmark our new website www.go.vsb.ca/schools/gordon This is the place to reference all the holidays, professional days, newsletters, district closure days and goal-setting dates. We will be keeping it up to date, so please check regularly. In general, we won't be sending out hard copies of forms, but if you do not have access to a printer please ask for hard copies from the [office](#). Also, if you know of another parent telling you that they are not receiving our email blasts, please ask them to contact the office. Please also contact the office if your email has been changed or is missing.

Commented [HL1]:

COMMUNITY SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS – WINTER SESSION – Please refer to the email blasts for more information about registering. Alternatively, you can email Dianne Sankey dsankey@vsb.bc.ca for more information.

TERRY FOX RUN – Fri. Sept. 27, 2-3pm. – We will be running in the neighbourhood this year. We will be having safe adults positioned at various corners/crossings. Please review with your children about going to these “safe adults” who will either be wearing a Gordon T-shirt or a visible vest if they are concerned about their safety or see anything that is a concern. We are also accepting donations for this worthy cause. You can donate online at terryfox.org

A minimum of \$2 gets you entered into winning the t-shirt that is on display in the hallway. Parent Volunteers are still needed so please contact the PAC at gordonpac@ymail.com if you can help out and haven't put it on the volunteer form.

LOST AND FOUND – Our Lost and Found is overflowing already. Please stop by the school to check to see if anything belongs to your child. If you tag the items with a first, last name or initials it is easier for us to reunite the item back to your child.

PAC NEWS

FIRST PAC MEETING – Monday, Sept. 23 6:30 – 8pm – Calling all Parents and Guardians to this important event. Come to the PAC meetings and find out firsthand what is happening at school. This is your chance to be involved, offer suggestions or chair one of the important committees that keep the school running throughout the year.

PIE (Partners for Inclusive Education) NEWS

PIE (Partners for Inclusive Education) is a group at Gordon with people who are interested in inclusive education. We have parents, educators, professionals and school staff participating in this group as we consider each other partners to create an inclusive community. Our community is not limited to General Gordon Elementary, and we welcome people from other neighbouring schools.

Throughout the year, we offer information monthly coffees for parents to connect, offer support and share resources. We also hold regular evening meetings with topics relevant to parents, educators and school staff who are committed to an inclusive community.

Morning PIE coffees will happen after drop-off on the Third Thursday of each Month. For Sept. 19, we will meet at Gordon in the Staff Room (this is a change in hopes of making it easier for newcomers to join us). Subsequent coffee locations will be announced. Dates are: Oct. 17, Nov 21, Dec. 12, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, April 16, May 21, and June 11 (June coffee will happen on the 2nd Tuesday).

Evening PIE meetings: Oct. 3, Nov. 14, Jan. 30, and TBD for late-February/early March and for early May. We will send further information about topics and speakers for our evening meetings once details are finalized.