

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School

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Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/general-gordon/Pages/default.aspx>

Safe Arrival (604) 713-5403 # 1

Principal: Marion Broadbent

Field Services Director: Richard Zerbe

Superintendent: Suzanne Hoffman

Vice Principal : Deb Routledge

Administrative Assistant: Heidi Leung

PAC Co-Chairs: Victoria Bonn

Suzan Saykam

April 1, 2020

SCHOOL CLOSURE COMMUNICATION: Administration will be available by email, with limited phone access. Please send email to haleung@vsb.bc.ca if required and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Parents,

I do hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. I am sure that you and your family are experiencing some of the anxiety and stress that we are all feeling in this unprecedented time in the world. I think the most important step is making sure that our children are feeling safe and have a chance to share their feelings. It certainly is in line with our School Goal of Social Emotional Learning. I have included a link to a very pertinent article that our counselor has shared with us entitled "A Trauma-Informed Approach to Teaching through the Coronavirus". <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/a-trauma-informed-approach-to-teaching-through-coronavirus>.

The VSB is working diligently to provide some direction for staff in light of the need to continue providing learning for our students.

Deb, Heidi and myself have been in the school working on supporting teachers in their preparations for what the online learning opportunities will look like. This week is dedicated to connecting with families so that learning can start next week. You should have received a connecting email from each teacher making sure that they have the latest communication information. If you did not receive that email please email Heidi Leung directly haleung@vsb.bc.ca

The VSB has a platform Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Teams Classroom which will be used by teachers for communicating learning with students. The rationale for the use of this particular platform is the following:

1. Safety - in particular, only students with VSB accounts are allowed on TEAMS and District and Teachers control parent access
2. Common Experience - Students and Staff to put their energies on one platform - ease the anxiety and use our resource efficiently
3. The symmetry of Learning - adults and students learning together
4. Communication to the Public will reflect this direction

Students will be accessing VSB Teams Classroom using their Student Number. This will all be arranged through the teacher.

Please note that for security reasons teachers will not be using other platforms such as Zoom, Facebooks, Skype.

We will be providing you with ongoing communications as we continue to learn new information. We thank you for your patience with us as we learn how to teach in a very new online elementary school environment.

Sincerely,

Deb, Heidi, Marion

PAC & P.I.E. MEETINGS – All PAC meetings are cancelled until further notice. We are aware that there are ongoing active funding requests that would have been presented at these meetings. In order to honour those request, we will be sending out an online vote for these issues, such that funds can be released in a timely manner.

MUNCHALUNCH/HOT LUNCH – All hot lunch orders for the remainder of this term will be credited to your account. If you would prefer a refunds, please let us know and we will process the request. Requests should be made by email to gordonpac@ymail.com. Please exercise patience, as there may be a high volume of requests and each will need to be processed individually.

SPRING FLING – We have made the final decision to cancel the 2020 Spring Fling at this time. We understand that this is an event that is enjoyed every year, and that there is a great deal of effort that is put into its planning.

Given the current health climate, it is realistic to assume that attendance would be likely be done even if the current ban on public gatherings is lifted, and school was to resume (which currently seems unlikely). We feel that postponing the event may give us all an opportunity to come together in the future, as a community, to celebrate overcoming a difficult time.

A huge thank you to those who have put forth their volunteer time up until now. We hope that you will continue to show your enthusiasm in the future, when things are up and running again.

LOST AND FOUND PICK UP – Lost and Found will be kept until students are allowed to return. Don't worry we aren't getting rid of anything at this point.

RUN FOR THE CURE & OTHER EVENTS - Please check each website directly for more information, most events are cancelled for now.