

# Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School  
2896 West 6th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X1  
☎713-5403 Fax 713-5405  
Website: go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/gordon

**Safe Arrival ☐ 713-5403 # 2**

Principal: Hope Sterling  
Field Services Director: Magdalena Kassis  
Interim Superintendent: John Lewis

Vice Principal : Sarah McAlister  
Administrative Assistant: Heidi Leung

PAC Co-Chairs: Julie Verhoeven  
Suzan Saykam

2017 September 5

Newsletter #1

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

**Recess-10:30-10:50am**

**Lunch-12:10-12:57pm**

**12:20-12:43pm**

**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

Tuesday	Sept. 5	Opening Day (9am-10am)
Monday	Sept. 18	Meet the Teacher (5:00-6:00pm)
Friday	Sept. 22	Professional Day
Thursday	Sept. 28	Terry Fox Run

## SCHOOL NEWS

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to the 2017/2018 school year at Gordon Elementary School!

Welcome back to all returning students and families of Gordon and a very warm welcome to all the new students and their families. I know that you will find Gordon to be a positive and supportive learning community. I look forward to working together with you over the coming year.

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer and that you are ready for another rewarding school year. We are hoping to be able to move into our new classrooms by Friday but until then, most students will remain in last year's classrooms. When you arrive in the morning please line up where you did last year or head straight to your class if that was your routine last year. **To avoid congestion, we are requesting that that students and parents remain outside of the school until the 8:55 bell. Also parents please remain outside while school is in session from 9-10am unless signing up for Kindergarten interviews.**

We have a number of new staff members this year: Div. 11 - Grade 2/3 –TBA for Shannon Stamp, Div. 12 - Grade 2 – TBA, Div. 13 - Grade 1/2 – Michael Carter

Div. 17 - Kindergarten – Christine Wallace (returning), Div. 18 - Kindergarten – Jessica Virgin, Library – Kyla Macdonald and our new Vice Principal – Sarah McAlister.

Also, we welcome the following special needs workers: Jennifer Routtu, Jeanne Morell, Nicolette Fung & Tammy Yazdanyar (returning). Finally, we are waiting to hear who will be filling in for Cathy Wilson (last year's supervision aide) as she has retired.

I am excited to watch as our new staff share their fresh ideas and talents with us. It is a privilege to work with such a professional, dedicated team. A huge welcome to all of our new and returning staff members!

During our first week our focus will be on teaching/reminding students of our Code of Conduct – **Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Kind**. It would be fantastic if you have a chance to discuss what they are learning and reinforce the practical value of these words.

There is a clear link between consistent attendance and overall success in life. This year the VSB is rolling out a new Safe Arrival Program. **This year ALL STUDENTS WILL BE PLACED ON THE SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM.** Watch for a notice coming home requesting your contact information. Gordon staff will be working

together with families to ensure students consistently arrive at school on time and offer support for students who are often late or absent. This may be phone calls home, notices or parent meetings. We appreciate your support around this important topic.

The online hot lunch program will not be running the first week of school, so please remember to pack a recess snack, water and a lunch from Wednesday onward. Also, watch for a package of notices and forms that will be sent home in September. This important package contains a list of supplies fees. Thank you for attending to this package ASAP.

We have planned a few events for September. **Meet the Staff** – Mon, Sept 18 from 5-6 PM. We will meet in the gym and then you will have a chance to wander the halls and meet your child's teacher. Thurs, Sept 21 is the first **PIE Meeting** at 7 PM in the Library. Fri, Sept 22 is our first **Pro D** day. Monday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> is the first **PAC Meeting**. Our **Terry Fox Run** will take place from 2 to 3 PM on Thurs, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you at these events.

Working together to enhance and broaden the learning experiences of our students is a challenge in which we take great pride. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions in making this a consistent and powerful learning journey for your children.

Hope Sterling, Principal

### **SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2017-2018:**

Thank you to everyone for their feedback regarding your children and classes. Teachers spend a long time with thoughtful input and care to place your children. We will try to accommodate all your wishes but cannot guarantee them. Know that we will do the best to place all children in a positive learning environment with their peers. We are full in all classrooms so are not able to make any changes.

### **DON'T FORGET TO REGULARLY CHECK OUR WEBSITE:**

Please book mark our new website [www.go.vsb.ca/schools/gordon](http://www.go.vsb.ca/schools/gordon) This is the place to reference all the holidays, professional days, district closure days and goal-setting dates. We will be keeping it up to date, so please check regularly. We won't be sending out hard copies but if you do not have access please ask for hard copies from the office.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

**Administration:** At General Gordon there has always been an open door policy where students and parents are able to come and speak to the administration when they have concerns about their child's education. We found last year that with our schedules being so busy either at meetings; teaching or working with students it was difficult for parents to know when we are available.

It is best if you would like to communicate with Hope Sterling please forward an email and she will get back to you and let you know her schedule. [hsterling@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:hsterling@vsb.bc.ca)

**Teaching Staff:** Please be respectful when setting up meetings to talk to the teachers about your child's learning. Right at the beginning of class is not the best time as teachers are prepping for the day and need that time to organize their lessons. Please speak to the teacher at the end of the day to make a convenient time for both of you. We thank you for your consideration towards and respect of our amazing staff at General Gordon.

**Newsletters/Information Bulletins/Website** Regular communication is one important way that parents can be well-informed about what goes on at school. Please expect two newsletters a month that will be posted on our website [www.go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/gordon](http://www.go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/gordon) Information sheets on field trips etc. will be sent home via paper.

### **GORDON SCHOOL AGENDA PROGRAM, and PERFORMANCES**

**Agendas:** Student agendas are another very useful communication and teaching tool. The cost of the agenda for the Grades 1-7 students is **\$10.00**.

**Performances:** Catherine MacIntyre, our music specialist has taken the time to research and book some exciting performances to show our children and school community this year. These performances are costly and in order to maintain the variety of experiences and number of performances we are asking for **\$15.00 from each student**. Parents and younger siblings are encouraged also to come and watch the performances. Catherine will sometimes book performances appropriate for all grades (odd and even divisions can watch) or performances that are appropriate for primary or intermediate. The school and the PAC will also be providing funds for some performances. These performances will be described in the upcoming newsletters. She will book five performances and then our PAC sponsors two extra performances so that our students benefit from numerous enriching experiences. We welcome families to come and join us for these performances and times

will be posted in the upcoming newsletters.

**SCHOOL FEES** Please send a cheque or money with your child to pay for school supplies. These supplies include pencils, pens, glue sticks, exercise books, duotangs, and art supplies that are shared in the classroom. Students in **Grades K-7 need to pay \$25.00.** *Please send the money by Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.* Please be reminded that students will not be denied supplies or an opportunity to participate in school activities if paying fees is a hardship. Please speak to Ms. Davidson if this is a concern.

**WRITE ONE CHEQUE- FOR SCHOOL FEES, PERFORMANCES AND AGENDAS**

If it is easier to write one cheque please enclose the following by Friday, September 21. Please send payment individually with each child as it is easier to process in the office. Thank you.

<i>Intermediate Grade 1-7</i>	\$50.00
<i>Kindergarten</i>	\$40.00

**PAC NEWS**

Please join us for our first coffee morning on Tuesday, Sept. 5. This is an opportunity to meet your fellow parents, have a coffee and learn more about how you can be involved in your child's education.