

Gordon Gazette

General Gordon Elementary School
2268 Bayswater Street
Vancouver, BC V6K 4P5
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Website: www.gordonelementary.ca

Safe Arrival ☐ 713-5403 Option #1

Principal: Hope Sterling
Field Services Director: Magdalena Kassis
Superintendent: Suzanne Hoffman
Trustee: Judy Zaichkowsky

Vice Principal : Sarah McAlister
Administrative Assistant: Heidi Leung
PAC Co-Chairs: Julie Verhoeven
Suzan Saykam

2018 January 26

Newsletter #8

BELL SCHEDULE :

School Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

8:55 Warning Bell

9:00 School starts

Recess-10:30-10:50am

Lunch-12:10-12:57pm

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

Monday, Jan. 29, 2018

Wed., Feb. 7, 2018

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018

Wed., Feb. 14 2018

Mon. Feb. 19, 2018

Tues. Feb. 27, 2018

Wed. Feb. 28, 2018

Curriculum Implementation Day – No School

Parent Teacher Conferences dismissal @ 2pm

Sharing Assembly Div. 12 & 6 @ 11am

P.I.E. meeting @ 7pm in the library

Family Day – No school

Duffle Bag Theatre @ 11am

Professional Development Day – No School

Class & Team Photos

Pink Day

SCHOOL NEWS

Principal's Message

February Newsletter 2018

Staffing Update

Many of you are aware of the difficulty the province is facing this school year with **hiring teachers**. We were happy when the Class Size Composition ruling resulted in smaller classes; however, these smaller classes led to the demand for more teachers. This created a province wide teacher shortage. We are doing our best to find continuous replacement teachers for both Division 7 and Division 8. We are posting for positions both inside the VSB and externally. We are hopeful that the situation will be remedied quickly.

Farewell to Staff

It is with great sadness that we had to say **farewell** to two staff members this month. Alison Sharpe, teacher of Division 7 is now working for the North Vancouver School District, which is closer to her home. Also, our Head Engineer, Robert Dimaulo, is retiring. They will be greatly missed but we wish them both well. This month we also learned that Darren Desrochers, teacher of Division 8, will be off on a health leave until the end of the school year. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back with us again in September.

Registration Reminder

It's registration time again! So far we have received more new **Kindergarten applications** than our capacity for next year. Registration closes at the end of the day on January 31st. This year the draw will be conducted at the Vancouver School Board office. Families will be notified by email with their status. We will always accept late applications, but they will not be placed in the draw, and will be added to the bottom of our waitlist. The large number of applications will put us once again in a draw situation. Last year we were in a similar situation but because a number of families accepted other choice programs, we were able to accommodate all of our in catchment students. I would also like to thank those who have returned their "Notice of Return" forms. This really helps us plan for the 2018/2019 school year.

Late French Immersion Update

The **Late French Immersion applications** are also currently coming in. The deadline is also January 31st. Again, if we are over capacity we will be conducting a draw. We look forward to working with all of our new students! Our two **Grade 7 Late French Immersion classes** are currently on their **Quebec Exchange**. Our students are participating in a number of fun adventures with their Quebec “twins” and will be returning to us on Wednesday. This is a wonderful opportunity to soak in the culture and immerse themselves in the French language. We wish them a safe and fun trip! Later in the spring, we will have an opportunity to extend the same hospitality to the Quebec students here in Vancouver.

Learning Improvement Fund

All of our teachers have been busily spending the \$12,000 **Learning Improvement Fund**. This government grant has been spent on items such as textbooks, other learning resources and some sports equipment. We are thankful for this opportunity to update our materials to support teachers as they work with the redesigned curriculum.

Nut Aware @ Gordon

Finally, I wanted to remind families that **Gordon is a “Nut Aware” school**. We have a number of nut allergies throughout the school and unfortunately we are still finding nut products discarded around the school. Please help us keep all of our students safe and healthy by choosing alternatives that **do not** contain peanuts or other nut products. Wow Butter instead of peanut butter is a welcome alternative for my family.

February is Compassion and Kindness Month

Our school-wide topic for the month of **February is compassion and kindness**. Feel free to chat with your children about how they can demonstrate these attributes at home and in the community.

A few parents have come to wish me well as I was not feeling great last week. I want to thank them for their support and I am feeling much better now.

Thank you for your continued support.
Hope Sterling, Principal

Pink Shirt Day – February 28, 2018

To support the Pink Shirt Anti-bullying campaign, student council will be encouraging all students and staff to wear pink on this day. We will not be selling shirts so please plan ahead.

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)

Throughout BC’s redesigned curriculum there is a focus on valuing diversity and respecting difference, and addresses topics of human rights and responses to discrimination. Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) education is comprised of important topics that are interwoven through several curricular areas, most notably Physical and Health Education, Language Arts, and Social Studies. How the topics are introduced to students is dependent on the age and stage of their development. These topics may also be discussed as they arise in the daily lives of students. The intention behind this education is to promote a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all individuals in British Columbia. Please visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-sogi-in-schools> for more information.

As per Ministry of Education guidelines, schools are encouraged to teach about SOGI. While parents do have the option to opt out of topics related to reproduction and sex education at school and have their children learn about this through alternative delivery methods [Read the Policy here](#), it’s important to note that reproduction and sex education are different topics than the topic of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI). If you have any questions or concerns regarding SOGI please feel free to contact Gordon Administration.

PAC update January 25th 2018

LUNAR NEW YEAR AT GORDON

The Lunar New Year is coming up on February 16th. We'd like interested families to help us celebrate it at our school. One option would be a fifteen to twenty-minute celebration at the February 7 assembly. Decorations around the school would be much appreciated as well. If you were planning on sharing your Lunar Year traditions in your child's classroom, please consider opening that up to the whole school community.

If you have an idea for a future cultural celebration for our community or would like to get involved in planning these events, please contact us.

Please email us at gordonpac@ymail.com (not gmail) if you can help us.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE NEEDED

We would like to put the call out for any information you may have on any available before and after school care in the community such as a nanny-share, or someone who offers before/after school care in their home as we have a family seeking childcare for with two young children who are low on the JKC wait list. Please let Heidi Leung (haleung@vsb.bc.ca) or the vice-principal Sarah McAlister (smcalister@vsb.bc.ca) know if you have any leads.

SPRING FLING – Sunday, May 27 – Parent Volunteers Needed – We are looking for parents who can spare some time planning and organizing this fun school event. If you have ideas and can help out please contact gordonpac@ymail.com. This our main yearly community building event as we encourage all our parents and children to enjoy this special day.

Piece of the PIE tip: To continue facilitating inclusion in our community, let's keep having open conversations with our children, with our families, with other parents, with teachers and admin within our school community. We are ALL partners in this conversation.

Count with us to continue working as partners to promote and facilitate inclusion in our community.