

# GORDON



# GAZETTE

GORDON PUBLIC SCHOOL, 468 Thorold Road West, Welland ON, L3C 3W6

OCTOBER 2011

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*It is hard to believe that one month of school has already gone by. The team at Gordon would like to thank the parents, the community and the students for being part of a very successful reorganization during our start up to the school year. We look forward to the learning and growing we are all going to be part of throughout the school year. Every newsletter we are going to be committed to providing parents with information, strategies and/or suggestions to help contribute to us collectively improving our student's achievement and thinking.*

*On Oct. 7th, we will be reviewing assessment data to identify program strengths and struggles and to plan for classroom instruction based on the information and data gathered. Once our school direction and goals have been established we will share them with students, parents and the community in the November newsletter insert. The Gordon team will continue to promote respect and responsibility and will endeavour to provide the best possible education for every child*

## Problem-based Mathematics Instruction

### Gallery Walk, Bansho, and Congress

Problem-based instruction provides a context that grounds abstract mathematics. It allows students to engage in mathematical reasoning and critical thinking that leads to questions and understanding of important and foundational mathematical ideas.

Prior to working on a mathematical problem, students are engaged in a short activity that leads mathematically to the problem. During problem-based mathematical instruction, students solve mathematical problems, often with a classmate or group of students. The solution illustrates what students know and understand. The teacher will encourage students to explore, notice patterns, develop efficient strategies, and generalize mathematical ideas. New learning is acquired as students view, discuss, make connections, and see mathematical relationships in the solutions that are presented.

During a gallery walk, students look at the solutions of their peers. This may include asking and answering questions or writing comments and/or questions. Bansho comes from the Japanese lesson study. It means board writing. A math congress comes from research of Cathy Fosnot. In both instructional strategies, student work forms the foundation for mathematical learning. Students explain their mathematical ideas to the mathematical community and justify and defend their thinking. Students see themselves as part of a mathematical community in which all thinking is both honoured and productive.

### RESOURCE

The Ontario Education Resource Bank (OERB) is an online resource that has over 24,000 items to support all subject areas for k to 12 plus 8700 Learn360 resources. The OERB can be accessed by students and parents. To access the OERB, go to <http://resources.elearningontario.ca>

Student login, the USER ID is: **DSBNStudent** and the PASSWORD is **oerbt**

Miss P. Spero, Principal

## SOCCKER TEAMS

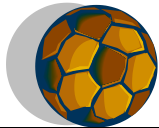
The Intermediate Boys' soccer team competed in a tournament on Thursday, September 15, 2011. The boys were extremely successful going undefeated throughout Round Robin action, however, falling short in the semi-final championship. Players included:

John B.	Devon M.
Brad V.	Ben J.
Ben J.	Jon H.
Andres O.	Matt M.
Connor A.	Cody B.
Connor J.	Tyler D.
Dane P.	Mackenzie J.
Keegan M.	Merrick S. (Manager)

Mr. Charles and Mr. Csuka would like to extend a thank you to parent volunteer drivers and to the players for being very respectful team members. Congratulations on your success!!

Let's Go Gordon Grizzlies.

Mrs. Rodrigue would like to thank the Intermediate Girls' soccer team for a job well done at our soccer tournament. The team scored a total of 20 goals over the day and only lost one game 1- 0 in the finals. Thank you for being so responsible and respectful all day at the tournament.



## CROSS COUNTRY

There will be 2 regional cross country meets for runners in Grades 4 to 8 this year. Each of these meets will take place at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. These races will take place rain or shine as there are no rain dates scheduled.

Team members are asked to be at school by 8:30 a.m. on September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> so that we have time to get organized and prepared for an 8:45 a.m. (sharp) departure. We will not wait for late athletes as there is a coaches/athletes meeting at 9:15 a.m. with races beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Races conclude at about 11:30 a.m. and we will return to the school by 12:30. Team members are reminded that they are responsible for catching up with any work missed during their absence.



Student athletes must remember to bring their backpack, their snack and extra water with them. In addition, wearing layered clothing that can be put on or removed based upon the weather conditions.

## TOONIES FOR TERRY

The Terry Fox Day is set for Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Gordon School! We are asking that all students participate. Please have your child bring a toonie (or more) for the Terry Fox Foundation. Donations larger than \$20 are eligible for a tax receipt. Parents are welcome to participate. Come join in the fun! Rain date will be September 29, 2011.

On-line donations may be made at [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org) (click on NATIONAL SCHOOL RUN DAY button, select DONATE TO STUDENT-SCHOOL and enter "Gordon Public School"). All on-line donations will be added to the total raised to Gordon School.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Activity Day and there will be no school for students. Gordon School Staff will be examining our Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO scores and developing our school goals.

## MAGAZINE CAMPAIGN

We kicked off our magazine fundraiser at an assembly on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Students should have brought home order forms. We ask that orders, new and renewal, be submitted by September 29. Thank you for your participation.



## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Please see the attached calendar for important dates in October. A detailed October calendar and our October newsletter will be posted on our website.

## CROSSING GUARDS

Please note that a crossing guard will be present 30 minutes before entry bell and 30 minutes after dismissal. Mr. Stevenson, our crossing guard at Clare and Thorold wishes to remind students and parents to be patient, and wait for his instructions before crossing this very busy intersection. In addition to looking to the right, then the left and again to the right, he advises that you always check your 6 o'clock - which means to check *behind* you before crossing.



## STUDENT INSURANCE FORMS

If your welcome back package did not contain a blue and white student insurance form, and you wish to purchase insurance for your child/ren, please let us know. We have forms available in the office. Coverage is available for as little as \$3.50 per student for the year.

## HALLOWEEN AT GORDON

Teachers will be sending home specific directions regarding plans for their divisions but you should be aware that Halloween activities for students in Grades 1 through 8 will not commence until after the second break (1:40 p.m.), at which time they are welcomed to dress in appropriate costumes – those with a non-violent theme and which still meet the school dress code. If necessary, props and the like may be left at the office until needed. Please identify such items with your child/ren's name. Weather permitting, Grades 1 through 8 will have a parade of costumes out to Clare Avenue, across Greystone to Bridlewood Avenue, then back down the pathway to the school. Alternatively, we will hold the parade through the school.



Students not taking part in these activities will have an opportunity to participate in an alternative program. Activities will include computers, the Arts and/or Physical Education. **Please see last page for details.**

### Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe:

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can

be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.



## PIZZA DAYS

This year Gordon School will be participating in the Little Caesars Ontario School Pizza Program. Little Caesars' program is designed to embody the principles of healthy eating and ensures that their pizza contributes to student's healthy growth and development.

Little Caesars is hosting a Gordon Pizza Fundraising Night in which 10% of all pizza sales come back to Gordon School. Gordon's Pizza Fundraising Night is booked for Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>!! Make sure your family and friends order a pizza from Little Caesars on Niagara St. and 10% of all sales will be donated back to the Grizzlies!!! Pamphlets and flyers will be sent home for our school fundraising event.



PLEASE READ ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY:

1. Pizza is \$1.00 per slice
2. Write the number of slices you want for each date and write down the total cost in the appropriate box.
3. Ensure the money is enclosed in a tightly sealed envelope and labeled with your child's name, teacher and room number.
4. If you are ordering for multiple siblings, make sure EACH child is marked with their specific teacher and it is specifically marked what siblings get cheese and/or pepperoni.
5. Payment by cheque can only be for pizza, no other payments should be included.
6. Fill out both sides of the order form and keep one at home for your records.
7. Pizza order forms are also available online on our school website.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

At our first meeting on Tuesday, September 27, our new school council was voted in. Please welcome:

CHAIR: Chris Seabrooke  
VICE-CHAIR: Derek Schwartz  
SECRETARY: Jane Naylor  
TREASURER: Sandra Zabharuk

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 22 at 6:30.



## Important Dates 2011/12

**September 6:** 1st Day of School  
**September 23:** Early Release Day  
**October 5:** World Teachers' Day  
**October 7:** PA Day  
**October 10:** Thanksgiving Day  
**November 11:** Remembrance Day  
**December 26 - January 6:**  
 Winter Holiday Break  
**January 20:** PA Day  
**February 2:** Kindergarten Open House 4-6  
**February 20:** Family Day  
**March 9-16:** March Break  
**April 6:** Good Friday  
**April 9:** Easter Monday  
**May 18:** PA Day  
**May 21:** Victoria Day  
**June 8:** PA Day  
**June 28:** Last Day of School



[www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org)



### OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DRAW

Fill in the answers to the following "skill-testing" questions, then hand into your teacher who will ensure it is placed in the draw for a prize.

When is the PD day in October?: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Newsletter Questions and Answers*

Do you have any questions about the school or curriculum that you would like to see answered in our newsletter? If so, send it in with the newsletter draw form and we will do our best to provide the answer in next month's edition.

#### September Newsletter Winners:

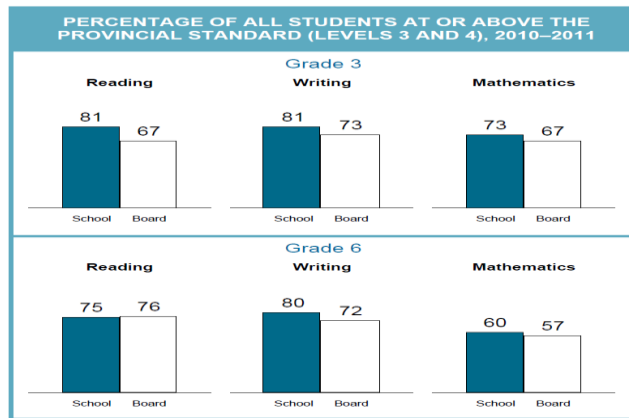
**Kindergarten:** Connor Duncan-JSA1

**Junior:** Thomas Rodrigue-4-1

**Primary:** Connor Camden-1/2

**Intermediate:** Keaton VanAlstine-7-1

## GORDON SCHOOL 2009-2010 GRADE 3 & 6 EQAO RESULTS



For a detailed summary of our results, please go to the EQAO website at: [www.EQAO.com](http://www.EQAO.com).

### SPIRITWEAR

Order forms are available on our website, but were sent home as well. If you would like your child to try different sizes of clothing, samples are available at the office on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Final Organization for the 2011-2012 School

Great news! As a result of an increase in our student population, Gordon school was allocated 2 more teachers effective Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. We are now compliant with the Ministry of Education's class size cap and are excited about our smaller class sizes. Below is our final home room organization for the school year. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this period of restructuring.

Respectfully,

P. Spero

D. Harley

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Mrs. H. Munderich	JK/SK – AM-PM
Mrs. L. LaPine	JK/SK – AM-PM
Mrs. T. Gaspich	1
Mrs. A. Fillion	1/2
Mrs. S. Edwards	2
Mr. R. Snelgrove	2
Mrs. McLean/Mrs. Rodrigue	3
Mrs. Degelman/Mrs. DaCosta	3
Ms. N. Knockaert	4
Mrs. K. Clarke	4/5
Mr. P. Charles	5
Ms. B. Slaght	6
Mrs W. Smythe-Janese	6
Mrs. T. Corkery	7
Mr. D. Harley	7/8
Mr. J. Eckhardt	8

MENTAL ILLNESS  
**AFFECTS 1 IN 5**  
CANADIANS

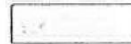


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[www.miaw.ca](http://www.miaw.ca)

AND MENTAL HEALTH

ALLIANCE CANADIENNE  
POUR L'ÉPI  
MIE



**FLEISHMAN  
HILLARD**

**YOU ARE INVITED**

**Wednesday, October 5, 6:00 – 7:00 pm.**

## *Halloween Schedule of Events*



	Kindergarten	Primary (Gr 1-3)	Junior (Gr 4-6)	Intermediate (Gr 7-8)
Morning Block 1 & 2	9 a.m. Parade of Costumes through the school, stopping at each class followed by in-class activities	Regular Academics		
12:50 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.	In-class activities	Second Nutrition & Fitness Breaks		
1:45 p.m.	Parade of Costumes* to the back of the school along the "Clare" path to send off the other grades	Grades 1 through 8 will have a Parade of Costumes* out to Clare Avenue, across Greystone to Bridlewood Avenue, then back down the pathway to the school.		
2:10 (approx) - 3:20 p.m.	In-class activities.	In-class activities	In-class activities	Costume Dance in the gym