

GORDON GAZETTE



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

September 2011

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Pam Spero
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905-734-3730

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Welcome Back Everyone,

The Gordon Staff would like to welcome back our students. We would also like to welcome new students and their families to our school community.

We hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Cook, our caretaker for getting the school in such great shape for school opening!

To keep you informed about the many activities and events at Gordon, we will send home a newsletter each month with the youngest in the family. It will also be available on-line on our website <http://www.dsbm.org/Schools/Gordon/>

*If you have questions or concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to call the school. We look forward to a great year with our dedicated and energetic staff as we work with you to **ACHIEVE SUCCESS TOGETHER!***

READING TIPS TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR

It is important for all children to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis--whether they are very beginning reader or a fluent reader. Try some of these suggestions for making your school-aged child's learning fun.

When you spend time reading books you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.

Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon, or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.

As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information. You also enjoy the closeness of sharing a book with your child.

Read your child books about camping, such as , before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.

While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his school, it is equally important for him to read about topics that interest him, whether it is insects, dragons, or a favorite fiction series.

Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression, and can accurately tell you what he read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. Teach your child to use the "Rule of Thumb" in selecting books: If he makes 5 or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

Encourage your child to read the sports page to check up on her favorite baseball team or to read children's magazines.

When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer.

Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this fall.

NO CHILD WITHOUT

Our school continues to be involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's *No Child Without* program. There is no cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the *No Child Without* program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child's file.

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN

Each year a Student Accident Insurance Plan is made available for all students on a voluntary basis. The plan provides protection for **DENTAL DAMAGE DUE TO ACCIDENTS, FRACTURE BENEFITS AND OTHER IMPORTANT COVERAGES**, which are **NOT** covered under the Provincial Health Plan. Some parents may have Dental Plan coverage through their work but many of these plans are limited in one way or another, while this accident coverage is not. You should compare to make sure you have the coverage you need or desire.

UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT THE BOARD IS NOT PERMITTED TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACCIDENTS TO PUPILS, THEREFORE, the Board recommends consideration of this plan to any parent who wishes to obtain this kind of insurance. Although the policy has all the advantages of a group plan, it is essentially a direct contract between the parent and the insurance company.

Details of these plans are described on the application form which we should be receiving soon. If you require further information, you may contact **Reliable Life at Box 2046, Hamilton, L8N 9Z9** or call toll free at **1-800-465-0661**. If you wish to subscribe to this insurance, please complete the form and mail it *directly* to Reliable Life Insurance Company in the enclosed stamped envelope immediately, but preferably before **September 30th, 2011**. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

You may also enrol online at www.insuremykids.com (for all plans except the \$3.50 basic plan).

If the enrolment form for the Student Accident Insurance Plan has not been received or it has been misplaced, please contact your school office.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

- **Please call** the school before 8:30 a.m. (or 12:30 for afternoon students) if your child is going to be absent. This will reduce the number of call backs the secretaries have to make. The office tracks the attendance of all our students twice daily. If we don't hear from you, and your child is not in school, we will call.
- If your child is in danger of suffering a severe anaphylactic reaction to bee stings, nuts or other allergies, please inform the office immediately so that an emergency plan can be put in place to ensure that your child's medical needs are met immediately.
- Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child.
- Please do not send medication to school with your child or do not place it in your child's backpack. All medication, including over-the-counter drugs, must be stored at the office with your written instructions for administration.



PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please observe the directional arrows for entering and exiting our parking lot. As well, we are instructing the children to walk on the sidewalk and not through the parking lot. Please do not park in the areas along the fence or along the sidewalk. We have several buses and parking in these areas will restrict movement of the buses, interfering with our students' routines.

Some suggestions to ease the congestion:

- Walk your child to school. The exercise and fresh air is beneficial.
- Car pool if driving is absolutely necessary.
- When dropping off students, use the pathways on Bridlewood and Clare Avenues.

Your co-operation in making Gordon School a safe place for children is appreciated.



GYM SHOES / INDOOR SHOES

Our custodian has worked extremely hard this summer to make our school sparkle and shine. We can show our appreciation by ensuring that our students have clean shoes to wear inside the building. In addition, for safety reasons and to help develop positive attitudes and total involvement in physical education classes, students need proper footwear for the gym.

VISITOR SIGN IN & SCHOOL SECURITY

If you have to pick up a student early, or drop something off for your child during school hours, we ask that you enter through the front door, using the call button in the front vestibule. Items which you are dropping off may be left with the office and we will call down your child at the next class break. Please write a note in the student organizer for the teacher if you need to pick up your child early. We will make every effort to have your child at the front doors waiting for you. All visitors who wish to enter the school will need to sign in and wear a visitor's tag. Wearing the visitor's tag signifies to staff and students that you have stopped by the office before walking through the school.

At regular entry times, we ask that your child wait outside their assigned entry door and refrain from using the front door. At dismissal, if you are picking up your child, we ask that you wait outside your child's assigned exit door. Students should not exit or enter through the front door because of all the traffic in the parking lot. Students who walk home with a younger sibling are encouraged to meet them outside their dismissal door. Kindergarten students will be dismissed to their parent or to a designated adult.

NUT ALLERGIES

We are asking students to bring only nut free snacks and foods to school. We are trying to make the school a "Nut-Free Zone" for several reasons. Peanut and nut allergies are usually severe and can be fatal. Even tiny amounts of nut particles or residue can cause someone with a nut allergy to have a strong reaction. Without treatment, this person could die within minutes. Gordon School can only be a "nut free" school with your commitment and co-operation. Please read labels to see if peanut or nut products are present. Try to avoid products that do not carry a list of ingredients. If foods containing nuts are inadvertently sent to school, they will be stored at the office for a short period of time. If you do not pick them up, they will then be discarded. Thank you for your help.



MILK PROGRAM & OUR CANTEEN



Our milk program will begin on October 1, 2011. An order form will be sent home in the middle of September. Chocolate and white milk will continue to be available to students in Grades 1 through 8 in our canteen at the nutrition breaks for 75¢ for 250 ml. You can pre-order milk for the month and send in payment at that time for the whole month - no searching for change in the morning. As always, juice and water are available from the vending machine for \$1.00 each. Once a decision has been made about which snacks might be appropriate for sale in our canteen, we will inform the students.

Things to know:

If you have a child in Grade 3 or Grade 6, please do not book any holidays or doctor's appointments from May 23 through June 6, 2012. EQAO, the provincial assessment, will take place during this time span (specific dates for Gordon School will follow). EQAO testing is mandatory for all Grade 3 and 6 students in the Province of Ontario

This year, our school photographer will be *Lifetouch*. Their policy is that photographs for a third child are free. Students at Centennial Secondary School are included in the calculations. **Our school photo day will be Friday, September 16, 2011.**

Gordon student organizers will be distributed the first week of school to all students in Grades 1 through 8. The Gordon School Code of Conduct is included in the organizer as well as our Student Handbook. Please take the time to read through the organizer with your child to establish a clear understanding of the school's policies and procedures. The **cost of the organizer is \$5.00**. Please send this in as soon as possible to your child's teacher.



The "**Recognition Assemblies**" will continue this year with a few new and exciting changes. We align the character traits recognized at our assemblies with the DSBN's "Character in Action" initiative attributes which will be displayed on the Gordon School banner which is on display in the gym.

Our first Pizza Day for grades 1 through 8 will begin in October. Order forms will be sent home in September. Remember that we only accept pre-orders for Pizza Day.

Thank you for sending in separate payments for the various orders (pizza, milk, etc). This small effort certainly helps out our volunteers.

Watch for a flyer to come home regarding our upcoming **OPEN HOUSE / MEET THE TEACHER** event to be held on Wednesday, September 28 from 4-5:30 p.m.

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Friday, September 23rd is our first early release day. Students who walk to and from school will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m. (after period 3).

- ✪ students who are bussed will be dismissed when their bus arrives - around 12:15 p.m.
- ✪ morning kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:20 a.m. There will be no bus pick up at this time. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up at 11:20 a.m.
- ✪ there are NO AFTERNOON KINDERGARTEN classes that day.

GORDON SCHOOL COUNCIL

Gordon School Council members would like to remind our returning families and also inform our new families that School Council elections will be held at our first meeting on Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. Any parent or guardian of a child attending Gordon School is able to become a member of School Council. Nomination forms are attached. Please return a completed form to the Principal by September 20. Gordon School has enjoyed the participation of an active School Council. We look forward to the continued support of our parent community. Please make an effort to attend our first meeting of the school year.

TODAY'S CORRESPONDENCE

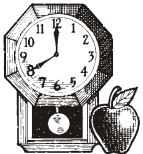
Today your child will bring home a number of important forms which need to be completed. Please return the completed and signed forms to school as soon as possible.

It is vital to keep student information up to date throughout the year. In the unfortunate event that your child takes ill or is injured, we will make every effort to reach you, but we also need additional names and numbers in case we cannot contact you. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Not included in this package are:

1. **VOLUNTEER DRIVER FORM:** If you anticipate driving students to school functions this year at all, please request this form from the office as soon as possible. Each volunteer driver must complete this form each year (one form per driver, per vehicle, per year).
2. **MEDICATION FORM:** If any medication is to be dispensed at school, DSBN policy indicates a form must be completed by the parent and the attending physician. All medication included in one of these forms must arrive at the school with the prescription label on the container, with the label information matching the completed form. Please see Mrs. Burns or Mrs. Laskowski if you have any further questions.

BELL TIMES -CHANGE



Included in the "Back to School Package" is a copy our daily scheduled for you to keep on hand. Yard supervision begins at 8:35 a.m. each day. Students should not arrive before that time. Students should leave the school promptly at dismissal. There is no yard supervision after 3:20 p.m. Bussed students remain indoors and are called to the front when their bus arrives. **First Nutrition Break all students are inside from 10:30-10:50 and then all students are outside from 10:50-11:15. The same routine has been set for second nutrition break. All students are inside from 12:55-1:15 and then all students are outside from 1:15-1:40.**

School-Based Immunization Clinics

Did you know that every year in Canada, 1,400 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 400 will die from it?

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection. The HPV vaccine is an important medical advancement that makes cervical cancer a preventable disease.

Once again this year, the HPV vaccine called Gardasil® will be offered free to **all female Grade 8 students** through Niagara Region Public Health's school-based immunization clinics. In addition, the Hepatitis B vaccine and the Meningococcal vaccine called Menactra® will be offered free to **all Grade 7 students**.

Parent/student information packages will be coming home with your child in September. Clinic dates and times will be announced through your child's school.

For more information, speak to your school nurse or call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.



MAGAZINE RENEWAL AND SALES

Our annual magazine fundraiser will begin in on Thursday, September 15th. New orders and renewals will be accepted. Profits are used to support special events, activities and sports teams. Thank you for your ongoing support. More details will follow in the weeks to come.

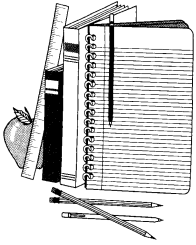
TENTATIVE CLASS ORGANIZATION AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Mrs. Munderich	Junior & Senior Kindergarten	Mr. J. Csuka	Learning Resource Teacher
Mrs. LaPine	Junior & Senior Kindergarten	Mr. Duncan	Music/Science
Mrs. Gaspich	Grade 1	Ms. Spinosa	Prep
Mrs. Filion	Grades 1 and 2	Mrs. Cook	Head Caretaker
Mrs. Edwards	Grades 2	Mrs. Miedema	Assistant Caretaker
Mr. Snelgrove	Grades 2 and 3	Mrs. Rodrigue	Assistant Caretaker
Mrs. McLean/Mrs. Rodrigue	Grade 3	Mrs. Ettinger	Educational Assistant
Mrs. DaCosta/Mrs. Degelman	Grades 3 and 4	Mrs. King	Educational Assistant
Ms. Knockaert	Grade 4	Ms. K. Spinosa	Prep Coverage
Mr. Charles	Grade 5	Mrs. Turner	Lunchroom Supervisor
Mrs. Smythe-Janese	Grades 5 and 6	Mrs. Rahmoun	Lunchroom Supervisor
Ms Slaght	Grade 6	Mrs. Hamilton	Youth Counsellor
Mrs Corkery	Grade 7	Mrs. McLachlan	Secretary
Mr. Harley, Ms. Dropper, Mr. Duncan	Grades 7 and 8	Mr. Harley	Vice-Principal/Librarian
Mr. Eckhardt	Grade 8	Miss Spero	Principal
Mme Colonna-Spagnolo	French		

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

This list has been compiled to assist you in purchasing school supplies for your child(ren) for this coming September. Please note that this is a suggested list. Please do not feel that you need to purchase everything on the list. Our teachers will ensure that all students are set up to be successful from the very first day of school.

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • glue sticks | • geometry sets | • rulers |
| • calculators | • duo tangs | • binders |
| • dividers | • markers | • scissors |
| • pens | • erasers | • highlighters |
| • pencil crayons | • 3-ring paper | |
| • pencils | • white glue | • facial tissues |



The school will supply all required Ministry textbooks and appropriate workbooks. Students are expected to have a designated pair of running shoes for indoor gym use only. A primary parent suggested that velcro fasteners on gym shoes make it much easier for young children who are just learning to tie their own shoes.

Students may also wish to have pencil cases or pencil boxes to keep their supplies organized. The following chart is a suggested list of supplies at various grade levels. Of course, supplies will be required throughout the entire school year.

Grade→	JK/SK	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8
3-ring binders				•	•	•	3	3	3
3-ring binder dividers (sets)					•	•	3	3	3
3-ring lined paper				•	•	•	•	•	•
Calculator							•	•	•
Crayons			•	•					
Duo Tangs			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
English/French Thesaurus (pocket size)							•	•	•
Erasers		•	•	•	•	•	<i>white</i>	<i>white</i>	<i>white</i>
Geometry Set							•	•	•
Glue Stick		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Glue			•	•					
Gym/Indoor Shoes	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Highlighters				•	•	•	•	•	•
Markers (thin tip)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pencil Crayons			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pencil Box/Case		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pencils		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pens, blue/black							2	2	2
Pens, red							•	•	•
Rulers (30 cm)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Scissors (blunt tip for younger students)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
“White Out”							•	•	•

SEPTEMBER 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.

Name a new staff member: _____

When is the next Early Release Day? _____

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.

Please complete the form below if you wish to have a hard copy of the school newsletter sent home with your child.

YES I would like a hard copy of the newsletter to be sent home with my son/daughter.

Child’s Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian signature