

Gordon Gazette

Gordon Public School, Welland ON

SEPTEMBER 2009

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Greetings!

A warm welcome back to all of you. I hope you enjoyed your summer, finding time to feel the sunshine amidst the raindrops. I spent some relaxing time at the cottage. A highlight this summer was a visit to Calgary with a day in the mountains of Banff. We are fortunate to live in a country with such diverse geography - the Rocky Mountains are absolutely majestic! I look forward to hearing the stories about your summer adventures.

So here we are, beginning another new school year full of hope and anticipation of the good things to come. Our enrollment continues to increase as we welcome many new families to our Gordon school community. As well we welcome some new staff members. A complete staff directory is included in this newsletter.

A few updates regarding staff...

Mr. Csuka continues to teach at Gordon in a new role. He will be the Intensive Support Teacher for grades four to eight and also our literacy coach. In this role he will support staff and students in the use of a variety of instructional strategies geared towards improving literacy.

Mr. Snelgrove continues to teach grade two, but he will also offer resource time to some of our primary students geared toward improving literacy and numeracy.

Mrs. Degelman and Mrs. Gaspich continue on their maternity leaves and we welcome Miss Hodgson and Mrs. Wiens back to Gordon to teach in their grade one classes during their leave.

We welcome Miss Avolio back to our JK/SK class. Congratulations to her as she was married during the summer and will now be known as Mrs. LaPine!

Mrs. Hamilton, our Youth Counselor, continues at Gordon with increased time - three days over the ten day cycle.

Ms. Robinson continues as our full time secretary however, we will soon be hiring a part time secretary to help with the administrative duties in the office.

Updates to the building...

- a new washroom for the kindergartens (located across from Mrs. LaPine's room)
- new windows in the office areas and staff room
- painting of rooms 4 and 5
- a dishwasher installed in the canteen area for our snack program, courtesy of Niagara Nutrition partners

Our teaching and support staff have been working hard to prepare the classrooms, lessons and materials for the children's return. Mrs. Carl has prepared the building inside and out for our students' arrival. Ms. Robinson has been completing all the administrative tasks in anticipation of the beginning of a new school year. I thank all the Gordon School staff for their efforts to get us ready for a smooth opening!



Please be sure to attend our "Meet the Staff" Open House on Thursday, September 17th, where you will have an opportunity to meet the staff, watch a student/staff baseball game and visit your child's classroom. Please use the enclosed order form if you are planning to order food.

Linda Oakes, Principal

NO CHILD WITHOUT

Our school is 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, 2009**. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

You may also enroll 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 Ms Robinson has to make. She 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. Please contact Mrs. Oakes for further information.



- ✓ A crossing guard will be ① directly in front of the school, ② at Rose Ave and Thorold Road, ③ at Bridlewood and Chapel Hill, and ④ at Thorold and Clare, at 8:35 a.m., 1:00-1:45 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m. (A note to our morning kindergarten parents: there will be no crossing guards at 11:20 a.m. Kindergarten students will be dismissed to their parents or a designated adult only.)

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

Most visitors are welcome to the school. Should 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 nut free snacks and foods only 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

Chocolate and white milk will continue to be available 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 more searching for change in the morning. Please return the enclosed milk order form as soon as possible (no later than Friday, September 11). 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 31 through June 11, 2010. 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 Wednesday, September 16, 2009.**
- ▶ 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 "**Gordon Stars**" program will continue this year with a few new and exciting changes. We will be aligning the character traits recognized at our assemblies with the DSBN's "Character in Action" initiative attributes which will be displayed at the front of the school on a beautiful new Gordon School banner. They are:



Respect
Responsibility
Integrity
Caring
Optimism
Perseverance
Courage
Cooperation

We will be focussing on one character attribute at each monthly assembly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning in October. Students who have best demonstrated this trait will be recognized at the next month's assembly. We look forward to much more student involvement at our assemblies, in presenting their understanding of the character attributes through a variety of multi-media presentations.

- ▶ Our first Pizza Day will be Friday, September 18. Watch for the order form to come home in the near future. Remember that we only accept pre-orders for Pizza Day.

TOONIES FOR TERRY

The Terry Fox National School Run Day is set for Tuesday, September 29 - and Gordon School will once again take part! 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 Wednesday, September 30.



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, 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.

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Friday, September 25th is our first early release day. Students who walk to and from school will be dismissed at 12:10 noon (after period 3).

- ⊕ students who are bussed will be dismissed when their bus arrives - around 12:30 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

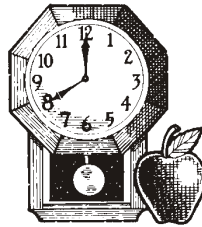
Gordon School Council members would like to remind our returning families and also inform our new families that School Council elections will be held at our first meeting on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. Any parent or guardian of a child attending Gordon School is able to become a member of School Council. Nomination forms are attached. Please return a completed form to the Principal by September 21. 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

BELL TIMES



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 3:30 p.m. Bussed students remain indoors and are called to the front when their bus arrives.

MAGAZINE RENEWAL AND SALES

Our annual magazine fundraiser will begin soon. 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.

Welcome!

Gordon School welcomes Terri-Lynn Sondrol from Niagara College. Terri-Lynn will be completing her Child and Youth Worker placement here at Gordon School until December 2009.

TENTATIVE CLASS ORGANIZATION AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Mrs. Munderich Junior & Senior Kindergarten
Mrs. LaPine Junior & Senior Kindergarten
Mrs. Wiens / Mrs. Gaspich Grade 1
Ms Hodgson / Mrs. Degelman Grade 1
Mrs. Edwards Grade 2
Mr. Snelgrove Grades 2 and 3
Ms Dekany Grade 3
Ms Knockaert Grades 3 and 4
Mrs. Leasa Grade 4
Mrs. Fillion Grades 4 and 5
Ms Slaght Grades 5 and 6
Mrs. Smythe-Janese Grade 6
Mrs. Brewster Grades 7 and 8
Mr. Eckhardt Grade 7
Mrs. Heinmiller Grade 8
Mme Colonna-Spagnolo French
Mme Glabb French

Mrs. Heckel Library and Music
Mr. Csuka Learning Resource Teacher/Literacy
Coach/Intensive Support Program
Mrs. Carl Head Caretaker
Mrs. Miedema Assistant Caretaker
Mrs. Rodrigue Assistant Caretaker
Mrs. Burns Educational Assistant
Mrs. Ferland Educational Assistant
Mrs. Roy Educational Assistant
Mrs. Spillman Educational Assistant
Mrs. Chatwin Lunchroom Supervisor
Mrs. Holmes Lunchroom Supervisor
Mrs. Rahmoun Lunchroom Supervisor
Mrs. Hamilton Youth Counsellor
Ms Robinson Secretary
Mrs. Laskowski Vice-Principal
Mrs. Oakes Principal



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 box at the office for a prize

►Name a new staff member: _____

►When is the next Early Release Day? _____

►When is the *Meet the Staff* event? _____

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.
