



# Newsletter

## GORDON HEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### *Gordon Head Middle School Growth Plan Goals:*

*Goal #1: To increase the percentage of students who are meeting and exceeding expectations in Numeracy, specifically in the areas of (a) concepts and applications and (b) representing and communicating.*

*Goal #2: To increase the percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations in Writing to Communicate Ideas across the curriculum with a focus on (a) meaning and (b) form.*

## February 20, 2014



Friday, February 21	Pro D - school not in session
Wednesday, February 26	Pink Shirt Day
	PAC Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5	Showcase at Lambrick Park
Friday, March 7	PAC Lunch/Pizza
	Report Cards home
	Last day before spring break

### **Principal's Message**

As I write this message, I am looking forward to this evening's BINGO event and marveling at the volunteer contributions of our parents. The BINGO organizers are working hard, and they have been well supported by our families and the community. The response to our request for donations has been fantastic!

Another upcoming event is our Lambrick Family of School Music Concert and Showcase. Please reserve March 5<sup>th</sup> for a fun evening at Lambrick Park Secondary School. Our music department is contributing considerably to the concert, and some student work spanning kindergarten to grade 12 will be on display for viewing prior to the concert.

The next two weeks before the spring break are going to be busy. There is a real academic focus as we approach the second formal report card, but there are also many other notable events such as volleyball playoffs, the swim meet, pink shirt anti-bullying day, a leadership conference, provincial basketball championships, and much more.

Thank you to everyone who works hard to make GHMS a great learning environment.

### **Notification of Lockdown Drill on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

As part of safety planning, we will have a lockdown drill at Gordon Head Middle School on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Staff and students will be given advance warning of this drill and everyone in the school will clear hallways, bathrooms and open areas and go into designated safe areas with minimal visibility. Any visiting adults in the school during the lockdown drill will be asked to participate and go to the nearest safe area, the photo copy room that has minimal visibility. If you are in the school at that time, we will appreciate your anticipated co-operation.

# MUSIC IS IN BLOOM

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 Concert in the Lambrick Park Gym  
Admission is Free!

Featuring the musicians of Torquay and Hillcrest Elementary,  
Gordon Head Middle and Lambrick Park Secondary Schools

**Fine print details** for our Family of Schools Spring Concert.

This is an exciting concert opportunity and we are happy to part of the Lambrick Open House.

GHMS musicians:

- Concert Choir
- Concert Band 7
- Concert Band 8
- Jazz Band
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Strings
- Advanced Strings

Uniform:

- White dress shirt, no t-shirts
- Black or very dark pant or skirt
- Dress shoes

Arrival times

- 5:45 - Strings- tuning begins in the gym
- 6:10 – Band members set up instruments in the gym; please refrain from playing until Mrs. Blair gives you the okay to test your instrument
- 6:10 – Choir members meet Mrs. Meadows in the gym

Bring with you...

- Instrument
- Music
- Music stand

**Please make sure your name is clearly labeled on the instrument case and music stand**

Small instrument cases will be kept at the musician's chair.

Larger instrument cases will be placed along the side of the gym.

**Parent Volunteers:**

If you are able to assist with supervision prior to the concert, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Email: [abblair@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:abblair@sd61.bc.ca) Thank you in advance.

In the event that your son or daughter is unable to participate in the concert please contact either Mrs. Meadows or Mrs. Blair immediately.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the "Music is in Bloom" concert at Lambrick Park.

## Library News

Thank you to the PAC for your generous support of the Library. It made it possible for me to take advantage of the annual sale at Kidsbooks in Vancouver where I found some great new non-fiction books that connect to the curriculum and also provide ideas for visually interesting ways to present written information. Three examples of this are these biographies: *Bon Appetit! The Delicious Life of Julia Child*; *Jimi Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix*; and *Imogen: The Mother of Modernism and Three Boys* all of which are as interesting to look at as they are to read.

PAC support also made it possible for me to start a collection of Book Club sets that connect to Social Studies, and Ashley Walman and I have just begun a project with her grade six class where students read and discuss in Book Club groups, novels set in different countries: *Iqbal* by Francesco D'Adamo (Pakistan), *The Breadwinner* (Afghanistan), *I am a Taxi* (Bolivia), and *No Ordinary Day* (India), all of which are by Deborah Ellis; *Bitter Chocolate* by Sally Grindley (West Africa), and *I Survived the Japanese Tsunami, 2011* by Lauren Tarshis. This reading is an extension of work students have been doing to explore other cultures and how they are similar and different. These novels in particular focus on the theme of children's rights around the world.

Lindsay Ross

[liross@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:liross@sd61.bc.ca)

## Student work

I sit in your shed, motionless and forgotten. I am the sparkle that illuminates the darkness. My shallow body grows colder by night, though my headstrong motives drive me forward in hopes of freedom...

I dream of places where the sun's glow rests upon the shimmering bed of aqua, whilst the silky waves dance atop the sun warmed reefs and a sight from afar, incomprehensible to the naked eye. But such a feat would be unachievable to a petty watering can such as myself...

So, I dream on.

Lyf Div. 6

### The Perfect High Five

There is something magical about the perfect high five. When you and your partner's hands meet in the most impeccable synchronization it feels like for once, everything in the world makes sense. A perfect high five is rare and should be savoured as one of the best ways to brighten up somebody's day.

Awesome.

Jade Div. 2

### New Episodes

There is nothing like coming home to find that your favourite t.v. show released a new episode.

You walk home, body aching, eyes drooping, and the only thing on your mind is sleep. At last you approach the door, fumble with your keys and try to unlock the darn thing. As the door swings open, you kick off your shoes, and slither out of your massive winter coat, and toss it at the couch. Sluggishly you make your way up the stairs, while dragging along your overweight backpack. Finally, you come upon your room and the first thing you do is flop onto your bed. Subconsciously you whip out your electronics and begin to mindlessly scroll through all of your notifications. Your eyes spot something. Could it be? "Yes!" you whisper to yourself while doing that hand motion everybody does when they win or whatever. You've waited for so long. A satisfactory grin of triumph fills your face, as you sit back, relax, and enjoy that one new episode.

Go ahead. You deserve it, pal.

Awesome.

Emma Div. 2

Don't forget that you can always find our Daily Announcements on the school website at <https://gordonhead.sd61.bc.ca/>. Click on Daily Announcements on the left of the Home Page and find out all you need to know!

## **Athletics**



### **Swim Club**

The swim club had their final early morning practice last week and they will be participating in the swim meet on Monday. Good luck to our swimmers!



### **Volleyball**

Our six volleyball teams are wrapping up their league games this week, and playoffs will take place between now and spring break. The volleyball players have shown considerable improvement in their skill level and the teams have been very successful. Thank you to our outstanding coaches and to everyone who supported our teams.



### **Basketball**

Good luck to our grade 7/8 basketball players, who are off to the BC Championships March 6 - 8 in Vancouver.



### **Badminton**

Our badminton club continues to play each Friday after school. Everyone is welcome!



### **Rugby**

Students who are interested in playing rugby after the spring break are to make sure they have signed up in the office, as we need to declare which teams we will enter in the league.

Remember that on our website <https://gordonhead.sd61.bc.ca/>, under Programs & Clubs, then Athletics, is a link to the LIMSSA site which has all information related to athletics.

#### **K-12 Student Transfer Process**

This is a reminder that tomorrow is the last day to submit your transfer form to the Board Office. There are copies of the transfer form in the office or you can access them through the district website at [www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca).



#### **Pink Day**

Remember to wear a pink shirt on PINK SHIRT DAY, Wednesday, February 26, as a reminder that we will stand together against bullying of any type.



The GHMS Recycling Team (Mrs. Sharp's class) is very excited to announce our **environmentally friendly fundraising project!**  
**Read the attached notice to learn how you can support recycling at GHMS!**

## Community Events

### **ANXIETY** Information Night for Parents

Are you concerned about your child and anxiety? Come to a Parent Information Night and learn ways to identify and support your child.

Presenters are Child and Youth Mental Health Therapist Samantha Yamada, Lisa Tate of The F.O.R.C.E. Society for Kid's Mental Health, and School District 61 District Counselors.

Location: Lambrick Park High School  
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
Time: 6:30 p.m.



Sorry, no child-minding will be available.

Please RSVP to [dhouse@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:dhouse@sd61.bc.ca)

The **Victoria Junior Field Hockey Association** offers a Spring Field Hockey League for players aged 5 to 18.

- 10 week season, starting April 5, 2014
- Divisions for boys and girls, all skill levels welcome
- Come Try the Game Free Days! UVIC Turf Fields near McKinnon Gym
  - Sunday, March 2, 2014
  - Sunday, March 9, 2014



For more information, please visit [www.victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca](http://www.victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca) or email [info@victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca](mailto:info@victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca) League registration is now open on our website!

### **SAANICH TIGERS LACROSSE** REGISTRATION IS CLOSING SOON!

We welcome all players born in 2009 and older.

Please register online at [saanichlacrosse.com](http://saanichlacrosse.com)

Registration for the 2014 season is almost over, don't miss out!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the registrar at [registrar@saanichlacrosse.com](mailto:registrar@saanichlacrosse.com)

# PAC NEWS

Next PAC meeting is **February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** in the school library.

## Dates to Remember

Feb. 20 – BINGO night!

Feb. 26 – PAC meeting 7:00pm

Interested in receiving PAC meeting minutes via email?

If so, please send your request to PAC Chair at [ghmspac@gmail.com](mailto:ghmspac@gmail.com)



Minutes from the PAC meetings can also be found at the [PAC section](#) of the school website.

We encourage suggestions for future meeting topics and speakers – share your thoughts at [ghmspac@gmail.com](mailto:ghmspac@gmail.com)

## 3 Reasons for you to come out to the next PAC meeting:

1. It is a great way to connect with other families at the school and find out what is going on and upcoming at your kid's school. These meetings are **not** just for the Executive, they are for **everyone!** We all come together and discuss the latest happenings and upcoming events. There are over 375 children at Gordon Head and we usually get about 10 people showing up at our meetings! We will not guilt you into volunteering for stuff, we would just like to see your smiling faces and hear what is important to you. Bring your Starbucks or Tim's and feel welcome!



2. Hear from and ask questions of our great leaders, Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Naughton.

3. Great parent education presenters! Mrs. Naughton has spent time the last two meetings talking about the future of school assessment - fantastic! More relevant topics to come.

**\*\* Next meeting Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> 7pm in the school library. Hope to see you there.**

## BINGO AND PIZZA NIGHT!



GHMS's Annual Family Bingo Night is **tonight!**

Doors open at 5:30 for pizza (\$3) and drinks (\$1). Bingo games will start at 6:00pm.

Popcorn, refreshments (juice, water, coffee, tea) and bake sale table will be available throughout the evening.

Bingo rounds are played until there is a winner and they will get to choose a prize of their choice from our fabulous prize table. Thank you for the bake sale donations and to all the volunteers who are helping this evening to make this night a success.

A very fun part of the evening is bidding on the silent auction baskets that each classroom put together. The baskets are wrapped and ready to bid on and they are fantastic. Winners can pay by cash or cheque for their basket.

Thank you to everyone who brought in a gift item for the baskets. They are amazing and show tremendous support to our school's fundraising efforts!

There is no charge to attend Bingo Night but we kindly ask that you consider a donation to the school PAC.

Looking forward to seeing you **tonight!**