

Gordon Happenings - Oct. 9, 2025

Artona School Photos - Photos will be online tomorrow. Students and families will be able to scan their QR codes to view their photos and order, or enter their access code on our website: [View and Order](#). All orders placed within 7 days of your photo day will be shipped to our school free of charge. Any orders placed after this time will be shipped with your retake day packages. Please visit our website to view your school's timeline: <https://artona.com/schools/GGNE>

Don't Have your Access Code? If you do not have your QR code please fill out this form here: [Don't Have Your Access Code?](#)

We'll be back for retakes. Don't forget, we will be back for retakes! Retakes take place on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025. Any students' or staff who missed photo day will have an opportunity to be photographed then.

Earthquake Drill – Thursday, October 16, 2025. We encourage any families new to the school who may not be familiar with how the release would work in a real emergency to join us at 2pm. The re-unification drill will take place from 2 – 2:30pm. Any parents who arrive after this time will need to wait until 3pm to pick up their children. Once pick up has been completed, please leave the school premises and do not stay to play on the playground. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Holiday – Just a reminder to enjoy your family time as school will be closed on Monday, Oct. 13. We look forward to seeing you return on Tuesday.

Please see below for some information from our PAC.

Stephen Leung, Principal skleung@vsb.bc.ca & Pawan Sumra, Vice Principal psumra@vsb.bc.ca

✿ **This Week @ Gordon PAC** ✿

Grab your coffee, your calendar, and maybe that bag of outgrown rain gear — here's what's happening around the school!

GORDTalks is BACK!

Mark your calendars — Wednesday, Nov 19th (evening, via Zoom)

Worried about smartphones? Us too. That's why we've teamed up with four other local schools to bring you an incredible speaker: Hannah Beach — co-author of *Reclaiming Our Students* and nationally acclaimed educator and speaker.

Her talk, **"Cellphones: What's Healthy, What's Not, and What We Can Do to Support Our Kids,"** explores how constant connectivity is reshaping childhood — and what we, as parents and caregivers, can do to help. Expect warmth, humour, and real take-home strategies for navigating tech with our kids.

Stay tuned for the Zoom link — you won't want to miss this one.

📵 Speaking of Smartphones... Let's Keep the Unplugged Momentum Rolling!

Since our last email, we've had a wave of new Unplugged Pledge signatures! 🙌

What's the pledge?

It's a collective promise to delay giving kids smartphones until at least age 14 (flip phones are totally fine!). The goal: build a culture that helps all kids thrive with healthier screen habits.

Here's how it works:

- Families sign the pledge for each child.
- Once five families in a grade sign, that grade becomes a Pledge Class.
- The community rallies together to keep kids connected to each other — not their screens.

👋 Grade 5 was our first pledge class — and now Grade 3 has joined the club!

Which grade will be next? We're already at 24 signatures and counting!

👉 [See the dashboard here](#) (select British Columbia → General Gordon)

👉 [Sign the pledge here!](#)

Want some science behind it? [This new study](#) says it all — and yes, it's a little scary.

💎 Purdy's Alert

Our annual Purdy's chocolate fundraiser is launching early this year!

Stay tuned for the link to order and support the PAC — just in time for the holidays.

👋 Gear Swap — We Need Your Donations!

Our annual Gear Swap is coming up soon, but the bins are looking a little... lonely.

Help fill them! We're collecting gently used kids' outerwear in the bins by the office until the morning of Friday, Oct 17th.

So dig through those closets, channel your inner Marie Kondo, and help another family score a great find. *Bonus: instant decluttering karma and more closet space.*

🚲 Bike Bus — Tomorrow!

The Bike Bus rolls again tomorrow morning! Join the crew for fresh air, granola bars, and a little extra morning joy.

💎 Pro tip: every ride = one punch on your card, and after six rides you earn a fun prize!

We're pretty sure prizes make the pedals spin faster.

Thanks as always,

Kelsey, Margaret & the PAC Exec

P.S. Fancy some fresh air and free coffee? ☕ Join our School Streets crew next week — every shift earns you a \$5 JJ Bean gift card and instant hero status at drop-off. 💎❤️ [Sign up here!](#)