

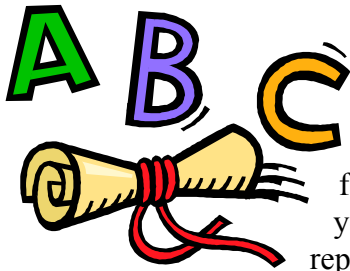


November 26, 2004 - Newsletter



Glanford Middle School
4140 Glanford Avenue Victoria, B.C. V8Z 4A8
Phone: 479-7179 Fax: 479-4629

Dear Parents & Guardians,



The end of November is here, and it is time to share formally with students and parents the first formal report card of the year. Parents can expect reports to come home on

Friday, December 3rd. Regarding conferencing for the first term, we will be dismissing students one hour earlier than normal so that we can book parent – teacher conferences on **Wednesday, December 8th** (dismissal will be 12:08 PM – no classes that afternoon), and on **Thursday, December 9th**, dismissal will be at 2 PM, one hour earlier than normal. Many **GMS** parents have already met formally with their child’s teacher and may not require an interview at this time. Should parents wish a formal interview with their child’s teacher, please complete the request for interview form that will accompany the formal report card on the day it goes home. Teachers that wish to meet with parents for an interview will indicate this on the interview form as well. In the past, we have shared strategies for families as they receive a report card, so that the whole experience can be useful and positive. Being the first formal report of the year, we would like to share these ideas with you in this newsletter. Teachers at **GMS** follow provincially mandated criteria as well as school district criteria when writing report cards. Reports will describe:

- what the students are able to do
- areas requiring further attention or development
- ways of supporting the student’s learning.

In addition to structured written comments for all report cards, middle school report cards also include letter grades. One exception to this is for students on individualized educational plans (IEP’s).

When your child brings his or her report card home, we would like to suggest that you do the following things:

- * read through the report card together carefully
- * identify strengths that are communicated in the report
- * identify areas that require attention
- * discuss suggested ideas to support your child’s learning
- * celebrate achievements
- * make plans for addressing areas needing attention
- * reread the report thoroughly a second time
- * jot down any questions that you may have for the teacher. At **GMS**, it is our intention to work collaboratively between home and school to support our children in their learning and to celebrate their successes!

GMS Website

If you have not already done so, please visit our school’s amazing website, which you can find at www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford. You can find the following on the school web page:



- Information about the staff
- The three teams at **GMS**: *The Hippity Hooplas, The Geckos, and The Sabre Tooth Bunnies*
- A calendar for the year
- Resources for parents and students
- **GMS** PAC information

The school has invested in **The World Book Online** as a resource for our students. It is an invaluable resource for students when they require information and need to do research. You can find this from the **GMS** link listed above. To access World Book Online, you need to:

- 1) Go to www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford
- 2) Go to the Resources button
- 3) Go to World Book Online
- 4) For Log In ID, use sd61student
- 5) For Password, use athome

Remember NOT to leave spaces for the log in ID or the password, and to use lower case letters. We have the required license to use this resource at home this year, and you are encouraged to try it out!

Leadership at GMS

We are delighted to be offering eight options for student leadership. Parents have been asking about these opportunities for students, so we wish to once again publish them for everyone to see at a glance:

- Sports Leadership – Mr. Bedard
- Communication – Mr. Durrance
- School Spirit – Mrs. Chiappetta/Ms. Kind
- Assemblies – Mrs. Wooster/Mr. Fello
- Global Outreach – Mrs. Norbury
- Fundraising – Mr. Bedard/Mrs. Chiappetta
- Community Outreach – Mrs. Macaulay/Mr. Fello
- Environmental – Mrs. Norbury

If there is a leadership group that parents are particularly interested in assisting, please don't hesitate to contact the teacher sponsor(s) to do so.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in being a parent room rep for your child's class? Room reps have a number of tasks that they do, all in an effort to work collaboratively with teachers to make day to day activities better for kids. If you are interested, please contact our PAC Chairperson, Audrey Smith via email at glanford.pac@vcpac.ca

Never Enough Time!

The reality of running a busy middle school has set in here at **GMS**. The school is buzzing with activity – academic, athletic, and social! The young adolescent learner is an interesting one – there is never a dull moment! At any time at **GMS**, you can feel the energy and see the activity in the building. Through student leadership activities, dance committees, athletics, the computer lab and library, band, strings,

origami and paper airplane club, as well as other fascinating activities, student opportunities to explore new, exciting things are definitely here! Along with all of this comes the challenge of “not enough time”. We are feeling it throughout the day, and particularly, at lunch time. In an effort to increase the amount of available time at lunch for the many activities at **GMS**, we are trying something new until Winter Break. We're taking five minutes from our twenty minute nutrition break (making this break 15 minutes) and adding it to the lunch break. The nutrition break will be 10:01 AM – 10:16 AM, and the lunch break will be 12:08 – 12:58, adding five minutes at lunch time. So far, this is helping!

Upcoming Important Dates at GMS

Friday, December 3rd – Formal Reports Home; last day of exploratory rotation 1 for Hippy Hoopla and Gecko Teams

Tuesday, December 7th – GMS PAC meeting, 7 PM; Mrs. Chiappetta will be sharing special education information at this meeting

Wednesday, December 8th – early dismissal at 12:08 for parent/teacher conferences

Thursday, December 9th – early dismissal at 2 PM for parent/teacher conferences

Monday, December 13th – Grade 6 vaccinations

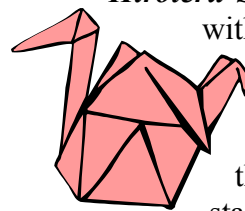
Tuesday, December 14th – BAND and STRINGS performance, 7 PM

Friday, December 17th – last day of classes prior to Winter Break

Tuesday, January 4th 2005 – school reopens

GMS has a Visiting Educator from Kyoto, Japan

We are delighted to welcome visiting educator **Hiroteru Sasaki** to **GMS**. Mr. Sasaki will be with us until December 15th, based in **Mrs. Norbury's** grade 6 classroom. During his visit, Mr. Sasaki is planning to share some of the following with our students and staff:



- Japanese basic conversation / character
- Japanese calligraphy / origami
- Comparing Japanese schools with our own
- Communication with students in Japan
- Japanese traditional toys

We are delighted to have Mr. Sasaki with us at **GMS!**

See you in and around **GMS!**

**Louie Scigliano, Principal &
Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal**



Prevention Services

COLD AND FLU PREVENTION

Cold and flu season is here. As the weather gets cooler and we move indoors, so do germs. Children need reminders to decrease the risk of colds and flu in your house by:

- Washing hands often.
- Covering coughs and sneezes.
- Not sharing hand and face towels.
- Keeping hands away from nose and mouth.
- Not sharing food, drink, suckers, cigarettes, etc. with someone who is sick.

To help limit the spread of germs, please keep your child at home if he or she is feverish, coughing a lot, has a thick yellow or green discharge from the nose, or is otherwise obviously unwell.

For more information contact:

- your local Health Unit
- <http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm>
- BC Nurse Line 1-866-215-4700
- your doctor

Health Units

Esquimalt	360-5600	Salt Spring Island	538-
4880			
Outer Gulf Islands	539-3099	Sooke	

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