



Newsletter

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

Message from Louie Scigliano, Principal and
Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

lscigliano@sd61.bc.ca
ewooster@sd61.bc.ca



Dear Parents & Guardians,

On behalf of the **GMS** staff, we would like to thank you for allowing us the honor of working with your kids – they are truly a special group! Over and over again, members of the staff have told us just how wonderful the children are that have assembled at **GMS**, and for this, we feel truly privileged. We're off and running!

The first month has flown by, and it is now October! We have made it a priority during our first month to set the tone for the year. Expectations in the areas of behavior and commitment to school work have indeed been high at **GMS**, and we feel this has created a foundation for the year. *The vision of **GMS** is to provide a safe, caring school community where strengths are honoured and learning is exciting. **GMS** students will acquire and demonstrate academic, social and behavioral skills that will allow them to contribute as moral citizens in a culturally diverse, technological world. We are committed to this vision at **GMS**!*

Glanford Middle School Parent's Advisory Council
Tonight will be the first formal PAC meeting of this school year. All parents are encouraged to attend! The meeting will take place in the school library and

will commence at 7 PM. The purpose of the meeting is:

- Welcome parents
- Hear an update from school administrators
- Ratify a constitution
- Elect a PAC executive
- Share ideas about parent involvement, fundraising, etc.

A copy of the **GMS** PAC Constitution will be available at the meeting. The following PAC Executive positions are open:

- Chairperson
- First Vice-Chairperson
- Second Vice-Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) Rep
- 4 members at large

Hope to see you at the PAC meeting tonight!

Cops for Cancer – Tour de Rock Campaign

GMS students, staff, and families have come together brilliantly to show our support and respect for this year's *Tour de Rock* Cops for Cancer campaign. The valiant effort of the bicycling team came to a climax for us at **GMS** with a live, in person visit to our school Friday afternoon, October 1st. We heard from the officers the purpose of their ride, which is to raise

funds for children suffering from various forms of cancer. Funds raised are for:

- cancer research
- supporting families that have a child undergoing cancer treatment
- the funding of *Camp GoodTimes*, a special camp for children aged 6-16 that have or have had cancer.

We have been proud at **GMS** to support this very worthwhile cause as a school-wide theme. As a goal, we set \$1,000 as a target donation, and are delighted to announce that we presented the Tour de Rock riders with **\$1,549.45** from **GMS**! **Mrs. Kind**, one of our teachers, had her head shaved – what a hit with the kids!



Thanks so much for your courage and your positive example to all of us at **GMS**, Mrs. Kind. The experience for our students and for our community from this event has been very well worth the effort – congratulations to everyone for their efforts with this year's event – we are proud of you! For further photos of the Tour de Rock, along with a video for you to view, please see the new **GMS** website at www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford

Glanford's Welcome Back Barbecue



We celebrated school opening with the community on September 23rd with a wonderful family barbecue! The gourmet hot dogs were a hit, and the children proudly introduced parents and families to **GMS** staff. Thanks goes to the **GMS** staff for all of their contributions to the evening, including cooking, serving, and providing information to parents regarding this year's programming. Tours of the facility were also a

highlight of the night. Thanks for all of the wonderful, supportive comments from parents that evening – your support is so much appreciated. Parents are reminded that they are most welcome to make formal appointments with teachers should they wish to discuss any concerns or if there is any information needed regarding your child's learning—we are committed to working together with you.

Athletics at GMS



Wow! We are definitely an athletic middle school! The interest in sports has been overwhelming at **GMS**, and we are proud to be offering soccer and cross country at this time. With *soccer*, we have the

following teams:

- Grade 8 boys with **Mr. Fello** and **Mr. Leischner**
- Grade 8 girls with **Mrs. Kind**
- Grade 6/7 boys with **Mr. Scigliano**
- Grade 6/7 girls with **Mrs. Chiappetta** and **Mrs. Wooster**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have been also training for **Cross Country running** under the leadership of **Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Norbury, and Mrs. Rushton**. These athletes had their first run last week at Beaver Lake, and have more events planned in the coming weeks. We are putting an emphasis on participation, FUN, and good sportsmanship with **GMS** sports. Toward the end of October, we will be starting volleyball. We have coaches getting ready for the volleyball season – interested students will bring home further information in their agenda planners in the coming weeks.

Music and Fine Arts



We are delighted to see so many **GMS** students choosing Band and Strings! **Mr. Fello**, our band and music teacher, is delighted with the enthusiastic band members and their commitment to music. Our strings teacher, **Mr. Wellby**, is off and running with beginner and advanced strings players. We will be offering choir for any interested students in the coming months – more information forthcoming.



Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

The BC Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) of Reading Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy was administered to Grade 4, 7 and 10 students in all BC public schools during the first week of May, 2004. This province-wide program assesses student performance in selected areas of the curriculum to provide information regarding performance in relation to provincial standards. It will assist us in many ways, including the following:

- It will help the province, school districts and schools to evaluate how well reading, writing and numeracy are being addressed, to maintain strengths, and make plans for improvement.
- The FSA assessment is not designed to be comprehensive, but rather provides a snapshot of how well students are attaining important foundation skills in relation to provincial standards. The achievement of specific subject knowledge will continue to be provided to parents in student report cards.

Foundation Skills Assessment results are reported at the provincial, district, and school levels. The Ministry has mandated that individual student results be collected and made available to parents or guardians. Schools have received a summary school report from the Ministry. Individual student results, identified by Personal Education Number (PEN), have been sent to the schools in which students were enrolled in May 2004.

From Glanford, we are forwarding our individual student results to parents, now that we have received them. As professional educators working with your child, we are committed to continuing growth as lifelong learners who desire to become increasingly more proficient practitioners – this information will assist us and our School Planning Councils in this growth.

Please be reminded that these assessments are intended to be only one indicator of individual, school, district and provincial growth. They are a snapshot of one point in time. As a new middle school, we are not able to discern trends over time, and therefore these results are useful to us as a school, but will be particularly valuable as we acquire more information about the school and about our effect on children's learning. Likewise, neighboring K-5 schools will make use of these results in the best way that they can. Our schools will also continue to collect and study other indicators (including teacher assessments, district reading comprehension assessments, satisfaction surveys, and so on).

For more information on the purpose and interpretation of the Foundation Skills Assessment and to view our school's complete results from May 2004, please visit the Ministry of Education's web site at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/results/2004/s06161038.pdf>

Library

Please contact either Mrs. Cassidy or Mr. Leischner in the school library if you are able to volunteer in the library. Your assistance in shelving books would be greatly appreciated!

Bicycles, Rollerblades, and Skateboards



We are thrilled that GMS kids are finding healthy ways of getting to and from school!

We have ample bicycle racks available to us on the school property, and encourage all students to lock their bicycles. Bicycles may not be ridden on school property.

Skateboards and rollerblades may not be used on school property before or after school – these must remain in lockers for the day. Helmets are also a requirement for bicycle, rollerblade, and skateboard use to and from school, as well as after 3:30 PM on school property.



Newsletter Distribution

Newsletters will be sent home approximately once a month with your child. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail please e-mail Teri Craig, School Secretary at tcraig@sd61.bc.ca with your e-mail address. Thank you!

See you in and around **GMS** !

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



Prevention Services

WHO SHOULD GET THE FLU VACCINE

Students who are identified by their doctors as being at “high risk” for influenza (flu) should get the flu vaccine, including:

- Students with ongoing heart, lung or kidney disease, or with asthma, diabetes, cancer, anemia, or immune system disorders are especially at risk, and should get the flu vaccine every year.
- Students being treated with acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or aspirin) for long periods of time are also at high risk, and should get the vaccine.
- Healthy siblings and adults living in the same house as these “high risk” students should also get the vaccine, to protect the student at risk, as well as themselves.

Flu vaccine is available through Health Units and physicians.

For more information contact:

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



Prevention Services

SEXUAL HEALTH LET’S TALK!

The reasons teens give for NOT talking to their parents about sex...

- My parents automatically accuse me of having sex.
- It’s hard to start a conversation about sex.
- My parents don’t understand what it is like to be young.
- My parents don’t want to discuss ‘it’.
- I don’t like lectures.

Teens need accurate sexual health information in order to make informed decisions. As a parent you can help. Talk to your teen about sexual health. Talk about all aspects of sexual health: relationships, making decisions, influences, and self-protection.

For more information contact:

- your local Health Unit
- BC Nurse Line 1-866-215-4700

Health Units

Esquimalt	360-5600	Salt Spring Island	538-4880
Outer Gulf Islands	539-3099	Sooke	642-5464
Peninsula	544-2400	Victoria	388-2200
Saanich	744-5100	West Shore	478-1757