



GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 25, 2005

Hello **GMS** Parents & Guardians

GMS and Global Awareness

Along with every school in The Greater Victoria School District, **GMS** joined with our neighboring schools to raise relief funds for countries affected by the recent Tsunami disaster.

It is incredible knowing that close to \$86,000 was raised in a matter of two or three days by members of our learning community. The collection at **GMS** of more than \$1100 was raised in a spirit which exceeded our expectations in just about every way. The discussions held in our advisory classes, as well as the spirit of giving to those in need, became amazing learning experiences for all of us. Global awareness and social responsibility has been front and centre for us, and once again, our learning community has been brought closer together by this event. Premier Gordon Campbell has sent a personal letter to all of us at **GMS**, commending our learning community for our support in this time of need.

Student Transfer Application Week: February 25 to March 4

Students in Greater Victoria School District follow a pathway from elementary school to middle school to secondary school. Students at all grade levels (K-12) wishing to change schools or pathway will need to complete a Student Transfer Application Form.

Our school's pathway is Glanford Middle School to Spectrum Secondary School.

Thus the only Glanford students who will need to complete a Student Transfer application for 2005-2006 will be:

- 1) Current Grade 8 students wishing to attend any other School District 61 secondary school except Spectrum Secondary, or,
- 2) Current Grades 6 or 7 students wishing to attend another School District 61 school.

- Student Transfer Application Forms will be available at any district school February 25 to March 4, 2005.
- Parents complete a Student Transfer Application Form between February 25 to March 4, 2005.
- All applications received during the transfer application week will be dated February 25, 2005. There will be no 'first come, first served'. This will avoid any need to 'rush to register'.
- Students applying during the transfer application week will receive written confirmation by April 1, 2005.
- Kindergarten students must first register at their catchment elementary school, then complete a Student Transfer Application Form if they wish to attend another school.
- All attempts will be made to accommodate students at their preferred school, space permitting.

- The Student Transfer Application should not be completed when applying for South Park or Sundance Elementary, or Home Learners' Link, **or the following District Programs:** Career Preparation, Co-op programs, Challenge (Esquimalt and Mt. Doug), Flexible Studies (Reynolds), Soccer (Reynolds), Hockey (Spectrum), or Baseball (Lambrick) Program, Grade 6 Late French Immersion. Rather, applications to these programs listed need to be done directly with those schools.

Please contact Mr. Scigliano if you have any questions.

Mini-Exploratory is Alive at GMS!

Have your child tell you about the mini-exploratory blocks happening at our school! Through multi-age groupings, we have organized a variety of learning opportunities for our students – WOW – have these ever been a hit! We would very much like to thank the GMS PAC for their financial support of these special learning opportunities for our students – this assistance goes a long way in supporting the program. Thank You! Have a look at the school's website for more information on mini-x.

Basketball at GMS



We have 4 basketball teams happening at the school at this time. Mr. Dailyde is coaching grade 6/7 boys, Mrs. Paul grade 6/7 girls, Mr. Brooker Grade 8 boys, and Mr. Scigliano Grade 8 girls. All of the teams are into their friendly schedule of games being played against other Middle Schools. Practices are happening before and after school, as well as at lunch times (coaches have sent information letters home to parents for each team). The grade 8 girls team took on the GMS staff in a friendly game – lots of fun had by all! Like other team sports in middle school, our philosophy at GMS is centered around participation – all students interested, and willing to make a commitment to the team, are enjoying the basketball season. Great job, everyone!

Upcoming GMS Ski Trip

Thanks very much to those families that have returned ski trip notices for the planned GMS ski trip to Mt. Washington February 22nd. At this time, the mountain is struggling for snow, and will re-open when it is safe to do so. We do expect that the cold weather will once again hit the Comox Valley, and Mt. Washington will be open in



February. We are reminding families at this time that the pink forms are due in at the office, which will allow us to finalize plans for February 22nd. Thanks for your assistance with this.

Fundraising

In order to help offset the costs of classroom year end outings the school would like to initiate a couple of fundraisers. The first of which would be to collect telephone books. Please bring your “used” telephone books into the school where we will store them until early spring, at which time we will be asking for volunteer parents with trucks/vans to deliver them. If everyone pitches in by collecting phone books from families, friends, work places, etc. this can be a terrific fundraiser. Our second major school initiated fundraising effort will be a community garage sale to be held on Saturday, April 16th. Please start saving your good used donations now and we will be asking for them to be sent to the school after spring break. We are also investigating the possibility of selling bedding plants & hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day!

Upcoming Important Dates

- February 1st – 8th – Coin Drive for the Variety Club of British Columbia – **“Share your change to change a child's life”**. Coins will be collected by Mr. Dailyde's class and passed on the Variety Club. More information on the campaign is available at www.variety.bc.ca
- Tuesday, February 1st – GMS PAC meeting – all parents welcome to attend, 7 PM, Library

- Wednesday, February 2nd – AVID parent information night for parents of grade 8 students, 7 PM, Spectrum Library – this is a reminder, as information went out in a letter to grade 8 parents.
- Thursday, February 3rd - Mr. Harrigan, Principal of Spectrum Secondary visits grade 8s at 1 PM
- Friday, February 4th – Dance performances in our gym, 11:30 AM – parents welcome
Mr. Harrison, Principal of Reynolds Secondary, visits grade 8s at 1 PM
- Wednesday, February 9th – Reynolds Secondary Soccer Academy information night, 7 PM @ Reynolds
- Monday, February 14th – Thursday, February 18th – Literacy Week @ GMS – see details in this newsletter
- Friday, February 18th – Non-Instructional Day – school not in session for students
- Tuesday, February 22nd – School wide GMS Ski Trip to Mt. Washington (hope for SNOW!)

GMS Swim Club



The school swim team has wrapped up its first season with its third and final swim meet at Commonwealth Pool on Sunday, Jan. 23rd. The swim team has practised every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. with instructors from Pacific Coast Swimming providing outstanding coaching to our students. Our first season was a great success, and congratulations to the following swimmers: Montana, Jessica, Heidi and Nick (Grade 6); Hayley, Taylor, Amber, Tessa, Ashley and Sam (Grade 7). Thanks to Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Wooster for sponsoring this club – we hope to see many more swimmers involved next year!

Literacy Week – Feb. 14 – 17th



One of our two school goals at GMS this year has been the development of strong literacy skills. We are striving to create an environment where literacy is celebrated, shared and valued by our learning community. To that end, GMS will be celebrating a *Literacy Week* in February and parents are most welcome to join in the festivities. Parent volunteers are also needed for several activities. Please see the attached flyer for full details. A local author and a Vancouver illustrator will be visiting GMS to share their talents. An “Open House” will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16th to showcase the many literacy projects students have worked on in class. Our librarian, Mr. Leischner, has organized a Scholastic Book Fair for the entire week. Popular selections, both fiction and non-fiction, will be on sale in the library. A number of contests will be upcoming, including a short story writing contest and a *Name That Book!* contest. Finally, it’s your chance to join a book club! Students have been invited to read a selection and join Ms. Brown and Ms. Olson for a lunch hour discussion. Parents who love literature are invited to read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon. We will have a parent Book Club meeting on Thursday, Feb. 17th at 7 p.m. in the library to discuss the book and share treats. Many thanks to Mrs. Norbury and Mrs Macaulay for initiating the discussion group. We hope you are able to join us.



Mark your calendar! Literacy Week at GMS is February 14 – 17th.

Community Sports:

Layritz Ball – registration dates

February 12/13, 19/20, 26/27 from noon to 3 p.m. Concession Building – Layritz Park
T-Ball, Softball & Baseball Boys - Ages 5 to 12 Girls - Ages 5 to 18
For further information call Greg @ 727-6940 or Ann @ 479-7707

Greater Victoria Minor Football Association

Boys and Girls – ages 8 to 14 - Flyers with details regarding registration are available for student pickup at the community bulletin board outside the school office or by calling Bob @ 479-6888



Prevention Services

SMOKE-FREE PLACES FOR KIDS

For the most part children don't choose to smoke but sometimes they have no choice. Children who live in homes (or ride in vehicles) with smoke are more likely to suffer from asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, coughing, wheezing and ear infections. That means they will have a greater number of sick days than a child that is in a smoke-free home.

How can you protect your children if you have a smoker in your household?

- Talk with others in the household about how to make your home smoke-free.
- Ask all smokers to take it outside.
- Consider how you will tell visitors to take their smoking outside.
- Put smoke-free decals on home and vehicle windows.
- Set up a comfortable outdoor smoking section.
- If smoking outside is impossible, designate a well-ventilated room as the "smoking room".
- Make the vehicle that transports children smoke-free.

For more information contact:

- your local Health Unit for Smoke-Free Place for Kids brochure with decals
- www.caphealth.org/mjo/HPES/smokefreekids/

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

SEXUAL HEALTH RESPECT YOUR BODY

Kids grow up, sometimes faster than we like. You can help smooth the transition to puberty by helping your pre-teen develop respect for his/her body. Get to know the 'sexuality' timelines. Puberty occurs between 9 and 13 years for girls and from 10 to 14 years for boys. Puberty is a time of rapid physical and emotional changes. Your pre-teen may feel excited or embarrassed about their new body, worried about being normal, happy to be growing up, confused about sexual feelings and experiencing mood swings. Here are some things you can do to assist your pre-teen learn 'body respect'.

- Discuss puberty and what it means – use books, videos, music, etc.
- Reassure him/her that their body and their sexual development are normal.
- Explain puberty including similarities and differences between boys and girls.
- Assist him/her to make wise choices about sleep, nutrition, hygiene and friends.
- Respect the need for privacy and independence.
- Talk about how sexuality is portrayed in the media.
- Be a positive role model.

SN-HP-107-11(9-13)-04 – Revised 2004-07-06

HEAD LICE ALERT

Outbreaks of head lice are more common when children start school in September and when they return to school after school breaks.

Head lice cannot jump or fly, they spread quickly by head to head contact and by sharing combs, brushes, etc. Lice cannot live on furniture or carpet. The most common symptom of head lice is constant itching of the scalp.

You can help by:

- teaching your child to not share or borrow hats, hairbrushes, combs, scarves, helmets and hair accessories.
- checking your child's head frequently (about every 2 weeks).
- telling the classroom teacher if your child has head lice, so other parents can be notified.

For more information contact:

- your local Health Unit
- <http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm>
- your doctor
- your pharmacist

SN-HP-107-6-04 – Revised 2004-07-6