



## GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 24, 2005

### Message from the Principal

November has been a busy and exciting month. Our staff and student leaders organized a successful "event afternoon" for October 31, a Remembrance Day Ceremony, a Band/Strings Concert, a Healthy Schools committee and a Retro Assembly. Congratulations to all of our students for their commitment to building our school culture and fine arts.

Academically GMS students have focused on learning and achievement. This recognition will take place in the form of Term One Report Cards coming home on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am very impressed by the learning I have observed. Many teachers have informed me of exemplary learning gains by GMS young people. Consistency of effort and work completion are so very important for pre-adolescent success. A special GMS thank you to our Exploratory Teachers – Art, Mrs. Ohl; Wood Work, Mr. Haupt; Home Ec, Mrs. Paul; Music, Mr. Flelo for their success with our GMS students in session one of Exploratory courses – a Middle School feature.

### Homework study

Our library is open for homework study every morning from 8:10 to 8:40. Teachers are also available for students to make arrangements for extra help. Please encourage your child to seek help at the first sign of academic struggle.

### Report cards – Term One

Report cards go home Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Parents are asked to discuss these with their youngster, congratulate success and help set goals for Term Two. Teachers will be outlining steps for improvement where needed. Teachers are available to discuss report card information by means of Parent/Teacher interviews, as outlined below. Teachers may also be left a telephone message requesting other means of communication at GMS – 479-7179

Reports will describe:

- a) what the students are able to do
- b) areas requiring further attention or development
- c) 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. Once exception to this is for students on individualized educational plans (IEP's).

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

- A = the student demonstrates excellent or outstanding performance in relation to expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade.
- B = the student demonstrates good performance in relation to expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade

- C+ = the students demonstrates good performance in relation to expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade
- C = the student demonstrates satisfactory performance in relation to expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade
- C - = the student demonstrates minimally acceptable performance in relation to expected learning outcomes for the course or subject and grade
- I =(In progress or Incomplete) The student, for a variety of reasons, is not demonstrating minimally acceptable performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes.

### **Parent/Teacher Interviews – December 7 & 8**

The GMS Parent Teacher interview process will take place on Wednesday, December 7 and Thursday, December 8. Students will be dismissed from school at 12:08 on Wednesday, December 7 and at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Conference forms will be included in your child's report card envelope. Please return this form by Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> so scheduling can be organized and sent home to parents.

I thank you in advance for being a partner in encouraging your young person to focus on their learning and effective decision making.

### **Mini X**

Our first mini-x session will begin Wednesday, January 25 and run every Wednesday afternoon until February 15. Offerings to students will be finalized in early January. Last year's offerings included cupcake decorating, book making, war hammer, bicycle maintenance, lacrosse.

I thank our PAC for their generous contribution in supporting this enrichment experience. Mini X further extends the array of enrichment offerings offered at GMS. These include classroom enrichment activities, exploratory activities, students leadership and band/strings.

### **PAC presentation – Drug Awareness**

Our PAC's parent presentation on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. will feature information on Crystal Meth and a feature on adolescent sexual awareness. Please join us and become more aware of challenges facing our young people in making healthy, safe decisions. PLEASE MARK JAN. 25 – 7 P.M. ON YOUR CALENDAR

### **Pancake breakfast**



On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> our PAC and the Central Saanich Lions will be providing a pancake breakfast for all students at GMS. A Maverick Moment – Full Stomachs! Breakfast will begin at 8:45 and run approximately 9:30 a.m. for our 343 students. As with last year, staff and students will be wearing their pyjamas!

### **Late to School is 8:41 – On time is 8:40**

Please ensure your young person gets to school on time. Lateness disturbs everyone's learning. If your youngster is to be late, please have him/her sign in at the office. If your child is going to be late for a medical/dental appointment or absent for the day please call the school's attendance line – 479-5032 – any time of day or night!

### **Calendar:**

- December 2 – Report cards sent home
- December 6 – PAC Meeting – 7 p.m.
- December 7 – Parent/Teacher Conferences – students dismissed at 12:08
- December 8 – Parent/Teacher Conferences – students dismissed at 2:00
- December 9 - Report card envelopes to be returned to teachers by this date
- December 13 – Band/Strings Concert – 7 p.m.
- December 15 – Pancake Breakfast/PJ Day
- December 16 – Last day of school before Winter Break
- Tuesday, January 3, 2006 – School Re-opens



- Tuesday, January 3, 2006 – PAC Meeting – 7 p.m.
- Monday, January 23 – Non-instructional Day
- Tuesday, January 24 – Drugs & Sexual Awareness PAC presentation for parents – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 25 – Mini X begins

you to Mr. Allsopp, Miss Durrance and Miss Dunning for coaching the Gr. 6/7 teams.



### February 28<sup>nd</sup> – A special day of recreation for GMS students!

Although it is some time away, we wanted to let families know that we are planning a special day for **GMS** students on Tuesday, February 28<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. All students will be given the option of attending a one day ski trip to Mt. Washington on that day, or, if they prefer, spend the day at a local activity organized by the school. Details regarding these activities will follow in January.

### Volleyball

Our GMS volleyball teams have enjoyed a great season. The Gr. 8 boys team coached by Mrs. Norbury has enjoyed victories in each of their recent matches. The Gr. 6/7 teams have practiced regularly to develop their skills. The boys and girls will participate in December jamborees to wrap up their seasons. Thank



Prevention Services

## MARIJUANA BASICS

Adolescence is 'the age of experimentation'. Sometimes the experimentation includes tobacco, alcohol and other drug use. Parents can make a difference in their teen's decision to experiment with drugs. The most important thing parents can do is talk, talk, and keep talking. Then get to know your teen's world - find out what drugs are out there.

In our region, more teens are using Marijuana than are smoking cigarettes. Most start experimenting with Marijuana around 13 years of age. Pot, Grass, Weed, Joint, Bud, Mary Jane, Hashish, Hash, and Hash Oil - Marijuana has many names. Marijuana is the dried leaves and buds of *Cannabis Sativa* (a form of hemp). Marijuana is grayish-green to greenish brown in colour and looks similar to dried and crushed oregano. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient in marijuana that gives users the desired 'high'. Hashish is a tar-like substance made from the female plant and is more potent than marijuana. Hash Oil, is the purest form of the drug, and has the highest content of THC.

Marijuana increases the user's perception of taste, color, sound and sensations. Some of the most common physical effects of marijuana include red eyes, increased appetite, drowsiness, impaired coordination, dry mouth and throat, impaired concentration and occasionally hallucinations.

For more information contact:

- your local Health Unit
- Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission <http://corp.aadac.com/>
- 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