



## GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Oct. 27, 2006

*Dear Parents & Guardians,*



The end of October is here, and at **GMS**, the school continues to be an amazing environment for teaching and learning. The four pillars of exemplary middle schools – advisory, teaming, exploratory, and flexible block scheduling, have allowed the staff to set the wheels in motion for an outstanding school year. Kudos goes to the **GMS** staff for their commitment to our program and to the dedication shown toward the wonderful children in their care.

Middle Schools are busy places! We have made it a priority 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. We have taken on the issue of bullying behavior as a school, and it is our desire that **GMS** is truly a bully-free school. We believe that together, we can accomplish this goal.

*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**! We desire our school to be a place that students truly feel that they belong, a place that is exciting, respectful, safe, and full of great learning opportunities and experiences.*

*First Interim Reports*

Last week, every **GMS** student brought home the first interim report of the year. The report was intended to provide a summary of each child's progress for the year to date. The report was informal, unlike the three formal reports students and parents receive each year. Developing strong work habits, organization skills and a commitment to completion of tasks are extremely important attributes that we desire to develop in our students. Bringing a great attitude and putting forth a strong effort are also attributes that we value at **GMS**. It is these factors that influence a child's progress. Communication between home and school is integral in supporting students and at **GMS**, we wish to keep lines of communication open – contact your child's teacher should you wish to discuss the information shared on the interim report, or if you have any other questions or concerns.

*Mini-Exploratory at **GMS***

It is time to try something new! Mini-exploratory blocks at **GMS** are designed to give students an opportunity to perhaps try something they have never tried before! When selecting mini-x options, students were asked to consider taking a risk – trying something students otherwise wouldn't try is what mini-x is all about! The costs associated with offering Mini-X blocks are generously covered by the **GMS** PAC – very much appreciated! Here are the 22 choices our students were able to choose from:

1. "Grade 8 Christmas Play"
2. "Drama"
3. "Comedy Classics of Buster Keaton"

4. "World Sports"
5. "HTML Websites"
6. "Chess Anyone?"
7. "Teen Centre at Saanich Commonwealth"
8. "Paper Bag Book Making"
9. "Hand-built Pottery"
10. "Cupcake Decorating"
11. "Cake Making"
12. "Curling"
13. "Knitting"
14. "Choir"
15. "Calligraphy"
16. "Floor Hockey"
18. "Cars . . Cars . . Cars! All About Cars!"
19. "i Movie Production"
20. "GMS Yearbook"
21. "Games"
22. "First Nations Drumming"

The mini-x blocks for round one will take place on four consecutive Wednesday afternoons, with the dates being **Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### ***Athletics at GMS***

Wow! We are definitely an athletic middle school! The interest in sports has been overwhelming at **GMS**, and we are of the soccer teams and cross country team at our school. With **soccer**, all of our teams are winding up their season this week with afternoon jamborees. A great job by all, and of course, lots of fun had by all! Thanks to our coaches:

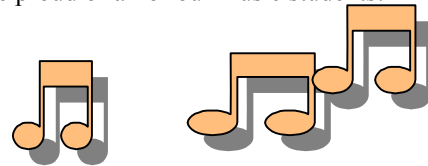
- Grade 8 boys with **Mr. Fello** and **Mr. Leischner**
- Grade 8 girls with **Mr. Scigliano**
- Grade 6/7 boys with **Mr. Seaberg & Ms. Cannon**
- Grade 6/7 girls with **Mrs. Chiappetta and Mrs. McKillop**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 also participated in **Cross Country running** under the leadership of **Ms. Brown and Mrs. Reicker, and Mrs. Rushton** was the coordinator for the entire cross country program this year. These athletes have trained hard and participated last week in the City Finals for Cross Country at Beaver Lake. We are putting an emphasis on participation, commitment, FUN, and good sportsmanship with **GMS** sports. With soccer and cross country

wrapping up, we are now turning to volleyball. We have coaches getting ready for the volleyball season – interested students have been called together and the teams are beginning to form; all students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to play!

#### ***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. The fine arts are one of the pillars of Glanford Middle School, and we are proud of all of our music students!



#### ***Technology @ Glanford Middle School***

Under the leadership of **Mr. Brooker**, many of our staff and students have endeavored to sustain the magnificent website we have here at **GMS**. The website can be accessed by going to the following address:

[www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford](http://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 Hippy Hooplas, The Geckos, and the Sea Monkeys**
- A calendar for the year
- Team web pages
- Resources for parents and students
- **GMS** PAC information

Take a moment to visit the web page – you will enjoy it!

Attendance – A reminder to all parents to please call in to 479-5032 when your child is going to be late or absent from school.



### ***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, 2006. 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.

From Glanford, we have forwarded our individual student results to parents. 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.

For more information on the purpose and interpretation of the Foundation Skills Assessment and to view our school's complete results from May 2006, please visit the Ministry of Education's web site at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/achieve/fsa-bas.php>

### ***Upcoming Important Dates***

Monday, Oct. 30 – Photo Retake Day

Tuesday, Oct. 31 - Halloween afternoon; talk with your child about the choices they have for that afternoon, which include a haunted house, computer activity, a dance, a Halloween movie, crafts, and the list of choices is growing! SAFE, appropriate costumes will be welcome

Tuesday, Nov. 2 – Music Concert

Friday, Nov. 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly at 11 AM

Monday, Nov. 13 – Stat Holiday, School not in session

### ***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.



See you in and around **GMS** !

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

## TRICK OR TEETH!

When it comes to Halloween candy and tooth health, the "all or nothing" approach is best. Giving children their Halloween candy over days or weeks is not the best choice. The risk of tooth decay increases with the amount of sugar and the number of times teeth are exposed to it.

Tooth safe suggestions for enjoying Halloween treats are:

- ◆ Serve a healthy dinner (or snack) before trick-or-treating. This will leave less room for sugary snacking. You will know your child has eaten **something** nutritious on this exciting night.
- ◆ Cut down on the number of times teeth are exposed to sugar by having a one-time Halloween candy binge.
- ◆ Cut down on the number of sugary treats by handing out "tooth-friendly" options like stickers, temporary tattoos or fancy pens and pencils.

And of course, remember to floss and brush with fluoride toothpaste before going to bed, or there could be some very *scary* results!

For more information contact:

- ◆ Prevention Services Dental Program/Prevention Services Nutrition Program:  
744-5100

### **Girls Gr.6/7 Soccer**

**The girls Gr. 6/7 soccer season came to a close on Oct. 24th with a Jamboree at SMU. Ms. Chiappetta and Mrs. McKillop would like to thank all the girls for their enthusiasm, skill, and sense of fun. They would especially like to thank the parent drivers for without them away games would not be possible.**