



GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 29, 2006

Greetings to all Glanford Families!

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits, and we are delighted to say that the first month of school at **GMS** is now complete - what a great month it has been! It has been our intent to have all students at our school feel like they belong here - it is their place! Our standards of behavior and respect have been set high, all in an effort to create a positive, safe environment for teaching and learning. We will be surveying our grade sixes soon to attain feedback on how good they feel about being part of the learning environment of **GMS**. We look forward to receiving that feedback and remain committed to making our school the best it can be!

Glanford's Open House

Our Family Barbecue / Meet the **GMS** Staff evening and welcome back to school was a huge success! Families turned out in full force last week to meet the staff, to hear about the upcoming year, and to see the facility. The important relationship between school and home has indeed begun, and fun was had by all! An



enormous thank you goes out to **Mrs. Wooster**, our Vice-Principal, for the tireless effort shown by her to make the evening a success. The Central Saanich Lions made a great contribution by cooking all of the gourmet hot dogs - which we very much appreciate. The parents of our school also pitched in and helped in so many ways - again, very much appreciated! Thanks also to the Glanford PAC for the wonderful financial support.

School Planning and Professional Development

On Monday, September 25th, we held the first non-instructional day of the year. The staff at **GMS** spent the morning reviewing the Growth Plan that we have for this year. The two goals that we have for our school community this year are the following: 1) To maintain and enhance the strong cultural identity established at **GMS**, and 2) To continue to raise student achievement in both literacy and numeracy, and to create a culture that celebrates and enriches these core areas. These goals were created at the end of the last school year and

are supported by our School Planning Council. Goals for this year will be discussed at upcoming PAC meetings, which of course all parents are encouraged to attend. The afternoon of the 25th was spent at Colquitz Middle School, where our staff worked collegially with the neighboring schools, sharing successful practice and teaching strategies with one another. A very valuable professional day was had by all!

Upcoming Mini-Exploratory

One of the special features of middle schools in our school district is the implementation of Mini-Exploratory blocks. These are blocks of time designed to offer middle school students learning opportunities and experiences that they otherwise would not have. It is the intent of mini-exploratory blocks at GMS to be fun-filled, enriching, challenging, and experiential for all of our students. We would like to extend an invitation to parents of our learning community to consider offering some of their time to lead an exploratory session. In the past, we have had parents lead groups of students in ceramics, mosaics, crafts, cycling, and other activities that they have expertise and passion. If you would like to offer your assistance with the first round of mini-exploratory blocks, Mr. Scigliano would like to hear from you!

Send an e-mail to lscigliano@sd61.bc.ca and share your idea. Specifically, the first round of mini-exploratory blocks have been set for four Wednesdays in a row - October 25th, November 1st, November 8th, and November 15th, from 1 PM - 2 PM on each of those days. We wish to thank the GMS PAC for once again generously supporting the mini-exploratory concept financially, effectively eliminating the need to charge students for any of the activities offered. This is VERY much appreciated - Thank You!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 3rd - **GMS PAC Meeting**, 7 PM in the Library - all parents welcome to attend!

Wednesday, October 4th -

International Walk to School Day -

We would like as many students, parents, and staff to join in this important event

Monday, October 9th - Thanksgiving Day, school not in session

Thursday, October 19th - Interim Reports Come Home

Friday, October 20th - Provincial Non-Instructional Day - school not in session

See you in and around Glanford!

Louie Scigliano, Principal

Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Grade 6 students will soon bring home information and consent forms to receive the following vaccines:

- ◆ Hepatitis B
- ◆ Meningococcal C
- ◆ Varicella (Chickenpox)

Hepatitis B is a serious disease that affects the liver. **Meningitis** is a serious disease that can affect the lining of the brain. Although uncommon, **Chickenpox** can cause serious complications such as pneumonia or infection of the lungs, encephalitis or inflammation of the brain, and bacterial skin infections such as Group A Streptococcus or “flesh eating disease” which can be life-threatening. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine will be offered to students who have not had chickenpox disease, shingles or previous varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

Please read the information and consents carefully. The first shot of hepatitis B (a series of 2) and one shot of meningococcal C will be given shortly. Please sign and return the consents to the school **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. The chickenpox (varicella) vaccine will be offered to students who have not had chickenpox, with the second hepatitis B shot.

If your student has already received any of these vaccines:

- ◆ Let the school’s public health nurse know the dates vaccine was given
- ◆ Write the dates on which the vaccine(s) were given on the consent card(s)
- ◆ Return the consent card to the school public health nurse
- ◆ Even if you do not want your student to be immunized at school, return the consent card so the public health nurse knows you received and reviewed the consent card.

NOTE: This school-based immunization program is offered to grade 6 students only.

For more information contact:

- ◆ Your local Health Unit
- ◆ BC Nurse Line (1-866-215-4700) a free call

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