



## GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 30, 2008

### Greetings to the GMS community!

This newsletter brings us to the end of April 2008, with much to celebrate and reflect upon, as well as much to prepare for! As we enter the final two months of the school year, we delight in the many highlights of the past month around our school, as well as look forward to some of the exciting events ahead!

### Canada's National Field Hockey Team Visits GMS!

We were honored to welcome the Canadian National Field Hockey Team to GMS at our last Retro Assembly! The National Team players arrived to a warm reception of GMS students, staff, and parent supporters, all cheering and supporting the women in their quest to earn a spot in the upcoming Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Thanks so much to staff member Mrs. Rushton, who was instrumental in bringing the team to GMS. Mrs. Rushton has TWO of her own daughters representing Canada on this amazing team! The Canadian National Women's Field Hockey Team are an inspiration to all of us at GMS – GO CANADA GO!

### GMS Students are the Best!

We are so very proud of the 400+ students at GMS. Since the second term formal report cards went home, we are pleased to see the commitment students are making to their personal goals. Way to go, kids! At GMS, we pride ourselves on the positive climate and culture of our school. Our wonderful students are tremendous contributors to our school culture. Studio 85 continues to be a great way for us to start our day - hopefully, parents have heard all about it! The

many great things happening around GMS are broadcast live on Studio 85 - our very unique live feed of announcements, which occurs every morning, and is sent live into all of our advisory rooms. The studio affords our grade 8 students with the opportunity to take on many important leadership roles in our school. Often, we will have staff and students from grades 6 and 7 as guests on the studio, which everyone enjoys. To see some of the amazing things going on with our staff and students at GMS, please take an opportunity to visit our school's webpage –

<http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford/sitepages/home.htm>.

### Canada's Esteem Team Speaker Visits GMS

We were honored to have Darcy Turenne, one of the world's most accomplished mountain bike riders, speak to the GMS community this week. Darcy's message was one of positive thinking and goal setting. Her motivational talk had all of the students thinking about short term as well as long term goal setting. It was fantastic! Thanks very much to Emi H. and Nick P. from grade 6 for their great introduction of our guest speaker. Take an opportunity to ask your child about it! For more information on Canada's esteem team speakers, including Darcy Turenne, visit [www.esteemteam.com](http://www.esteemteam.com). Many thanks to the GMS PAC for taking care of the cost of this fabulous presentation – it was very worthwhile.



## Rugby, Field Hockey, and Badminton

We have been delighted with the high number of students in grades 6-8 that have given Rugby, Field Hockey, and Badminton a try this year. These exciting sports have been led by the expertise of Mr. Seaberg, assisted by Mrs. McKillop, in Rugby, Mrs. Rushton, assisted by Mrs. Reicker, Mrs. Seaberg, and Ms. Margetts in field hockey, Mr. Leischner and Mr. Fello in Badminton. It has been a delight to see the enthusiasm of our GMS students in these three amazing athletic opportunities! Way to go, kids! It continues to be our endeavor at GMS to promote team play, skill development, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all students involved and a big thanks to our many staff sponsors and parent helpers!

## Literacy Week is May 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> at GMS



This year marks our fourth annual Literacy Week at GMS. Students were treated to a preview of our activities last October with a visit from internationally renowned children's author, Kenneth Oppel. This year's activities include:

- Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – local author Nikki Tate visits to preview her latest book *Double Take: Karen Brain's Olympic Journey*. Joining Nikki will be Karen Brain a multi-medal winner at each of the past three para-Olympic games. Karen will speak about overcoming adversity and her upcoming participation in the Beijing Olympics.
- Wed. May 7<sup>th</sup> – Retro Assembly with a literary theme. Winners of a Provincial Writing contest will be announced. Prizes for dressing as your favourite literary character.

- Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – “Run for Reading” event. GMS is sponsoring two schools in Africa, one in Tanzania and another in Ghana where a former Glanford student is currently teaching. Our target is to beat last year's total of \$2,000. Please return your pledge sheet and donations by Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Our run will take place on Friday at 2 pm.
- May 5 – 9<sup>th</sup>- SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR in the library. Great prices and great titles.
- May 5 – 9<sup>th</sup> – Daily Studio 85 presentations & prizes. Stay tuned for details.

## Track And Field

We have started Track and Field now at GMS, and like the other athletic opportunities that we offer, have seen a huge interest and turn out from students! The running events and the field events are all underway with respect to training, and the students that have chosen to participate in these events have brought home notices with pertinent information from the coaching staff. Good luck to all of our participants, and a big thanks goes out to our many staff helpers, led by Ms. Chiappetta and numerous GMS staff members!

## Band and Strings

Our Band and Strings programs continue to excel. We are very proud of the hard work and commitment made by our students with respect to practicing their instruments, and performing as a team! Mr. Fello and Mr. Welby and a rather large contingent of GMS students and parents have just returned from a phenomenal trip to Calgary! Congratulations to all of our musicians!

## Final Round of Mini – X

The third and final round of Mini-X is set for Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. As in the past the Mini-X activities are fully funded and supported by the amazing commitment from our GMS PAC! Thank you so much! These enrichment activities provide students an opportunity to try an activity that they may otherwise never try! All of the mini-x activities are FREE to the students, again, thanks to the GMS PAC. For a complete list of the 22 mini-x options being offered to our students for round three, please have a look at the GMS home page, found at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford/sitepages/home.htm>.

## Social Responsibility

Last Spring, Glanford Middle School students and staff participated in a neighborhood walk carrying full one-gallon water jugs. The purpose and symbolism of this event was to raise awareness and money to help fund education for students in Tanzania. All money raised was sent to Tanzania and distributed by the Canadian Harambee Education Society. We value our relationship with retired Victoria School District Principal, Catroina Harker, and continue to be honored to support the work she is doing in Africa.

At GMS, we value education as a human right and we understand that we have the responsibility to ensure that right is upheld all over the world. We also understand that we have the global responsibility to help where we can, and when we can.

This year, we will once again be raising awareness and funds to assist students in Tanzania. Additionally, we have decided to assist the efforts of former Glanford student, Alex Cassidy. After graduating from High School, Alex made it his mission to volunteer his time in

Ghana. One of Alex's goals is assisting is to build a library and computer room for students in a small town in Ghana. At GMS, students have been busy with a variety of fundraising efforts, and as a school, we will be participating in a GMS Reads for Africa campaign, culminating with a neighborhood walk on the afternoon of Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Please join us on the walk or even support us with a wave and a smile as we pass! Thanks to our community for your support of this social responsibility endeavor. We hope to see you out for a walk with us on May 9<sup>th</sup>!

## Upcoming Transition Events

On Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, our school district is hosting a Transition Afternoon. The afternoon is dedicated to allowing students an opportunity to visit the school that they will be attending in September 2008. For our grade eights, most of our students will be attending Spectrum Secondary, Reynolds Secondary, or Mt. Douglas Secondary next year; they will be spending the afternoon of May 15<sup>th</sup> at those respective schools. For neighboring students currently in grade five that will be attending GMS in September 2008, we have invited these kids to spend an afternoon with us May 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be a chance for these youngsters to see the school they will be attending, learn more about what to expect when they come here, and finally, get a taste of our wonderful school culture we are so proud of around GMS!



## Drug Awareness and Education

At GMS, we appreciate the importance of sharing current and relevant information with our students and families with respect to drug awareness. To that end, we have invited our Police Liaison Officer, Constable Jerome Rozitis from the Saanich Police, to make presentations to our community on the issue of Crystal Meth. Parents are invited to Jerome's presentation for parents on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 6 PM – 7 PM in our multi-purpose room (this is just before the month PAC meeting, which all parents are encouraged to attend). Constable Rozitis will be making a presentation to students in grades 7 and 8 on the same topic, Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our grade 6 classes are also engaged in drug awareness discussions. Collectively, we will make it a priority to keep our kids well informed and safe.

## News From the GMS Library!

To begin, **Mr. Leischner** would like to congratulate those **Red Cedar** readers who persevered and cast their ballots for their favourite Canadian books on April 24<sup>th</sup>! The following students celebrated their achievements with a pizza party in the library. They are:

<b>Kenzie Rosene</b>	<b>C-3</b>
<b>Taleaha Penner</b>	<b>C-3</b>
<b>Emi Horne</b>	<b>C-3</b>
<b>Jeremy Dennett</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>Patricia Nguyen</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>Peter Allan</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>Adam Gibson</b>	<b>B-1</b>

In celebration of **Literacy Week**, which runs from May 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, the library will once again play host to our annual **Scholastic Book Fair**. The fair will be open every morning before school, at lunch-time and after school, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. There promises to be a wide

variety of items from which to choose. As usual, we will be accepting cash, cheques or MasterCard/Visa for any purchases. All are invited to come out and support this major fundraising event for GMS!

Finally, during our recent trek to the **MYABC Conference** in Penticton, it was discovered that several **Glanford** students fared very well in a writing and art contest which was sponsored by the organizers. Stay tuned to the school website as the full details of their accomplishments are revealed.

That's all for now. We hope to see you at the fair!

## Upcoming Important Dates

- Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> – Round Three of Mini-X at GMS
- Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – GMS Literacy Week
- Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – GMS PAC Meeting, in our library, all parents welcome to attend! "Death by Jib" presentation by Saanich Police, followed by PAC meeting at 7 PM
- Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Social Responsibility Event, 2 PM, see above notes for details
- Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – District Transition Afternoon – see notes above
- Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Non-Instructional Day this school year; students not in session
- Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – Victoria Day Holiday, students not in session

See you in and around GMS!

Louie Scigliano, Principal  
Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

