



## GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> , 2007

Hello **GMS** Families! On behalf of the entire **GMS** staff, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Students and staff have worked hard and everyone is ready for a break! Take time to enjoy one another at this special time of year. With today being the last day of classes prior to Winter Break, we wanted to share some important information with you regarding upcoming dates of importance in January 2008.

### **Congratulations to our GMS Musicians!**



We wish to congratulate all of the wonderful **GMS** musicians for treating us to a magnificent musical performance last week. The dedication the students have made in band, strings, and choir is commendable, and the music they shared with a capacity audience is remarkable – great job everyone! The theme of the Hockey Sweater was delightful! Thanks so much to Mr. Fello and Mr. Welby, our talented music teachers, for their wonderful teaching of these students. Additionally, many thanks goes out to Mr. Leischner, Mr. Brooker, and Mr. Shires for their contributions to the evening. We are proud of all of you!

### **Mark your calendar for:**

Monday, January 7, 2008 – school reopens after Winter Break

Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – GMS PAC meeting, 7 PM in the library – all parents welcome!

Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Grade 8 orientation at ALL Victoria School district high schools, 7 PM – 8:30 PM – more information to come from grade 8 advisory teachers

Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Mini-exploratory blocks, round two, commence

### **Pancake Breakfast and Pajama Day!**

Yesterday, we had a wonderful event here at **GMS** – our annual Pancake Breakfast and Pajama Day! The **Central Saanich Lions** generously showed up in full force and cooked up a storm for all of us to enjoy! We had very generous contributions to the event from **Country Grocer at Royal Oak**, and we very much appreciate this community support. A tremendous thank you goes out to the **GMS** PAC for all of their support of this event – thank you to ALL of the parents that helped make this a great day for the kids! Special thanks goes out to parent **Audrey Smith** for her special efforts with this event! Over the past few weeks, we have been collecting non-perishable goods. Yesterday, we presented the Central Saanich Lions with a HUGE collection of food, which will be donated to The Mustard Seed. Thanks to all **GMS** students, families, and staff that generously donated food for those less fortunate at this special time of year.

**Mini-Exploratory Blocks – Round Two - commences January 30<sup>th</sup> !**

We are very excited to begin the planning of our second round of mini-exploratory blocks for **GMS** students! These blocks are offered to enrich the middle school experience for all involved. Following the winter break, students will once again be presented with an array of offerings to choose from. Students will be multi-aged according to their interests, and will attend four blocks of mini-exploratory sessions for each rotation. The rotations will be on Wednesdays, and the dates for the second rotation are January 30<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. Parents that have a hobby, a passion, or skill that is appropriate and fun to share with Middle School kids are asked to call Mr. Scigliano (479-7179) to "explore" the idea! We hope to hear from you! A HUGE thanks goes out once again to the **GMS** PAC for their generous financial support, which allows the mini-exploratory experience at **GMS** to be without charge to all of the students.



**Inclement Weather**

We are now approaching the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause classes to be postponed or some School District 61 services to be suspended. Current information will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/>

Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 a.m. if there is a concern. Local media outlets have indicated that they will provide constant information and the Weather Network will also post updates at <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/weather/CABC0313>

With winter approaching, please be safe in the icy, snowy weather. When conditions are treacherous outside, our custodian Mr. Schmidt clears a pathway to the main front entrance as well as the gym/exploratory entrance. All other entrances should be avoided until weather conditions improve. For people walking to school, please plan as level a walking route as possible. Your cooperation is appreciated. We want everyone to arrive safely at school!

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. 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 the school where special events will be happening. Final plans have not yet been made for students choosing to be at **GMS** the day of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Students choosing to be at school that day will have a recreational activity planned for them to enjoy. Further Information regarding the ski trip will be coming home the first week in January, with forms due at the school no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Merry Christmas Everyone! Have a safe, wonderful holiday and see you January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008!

**Louie Scigliano, Principal**

**Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal**