



# GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 30, 2008

## Greetings to all Glanford Families!

Hey **GMS** students, families, and staff - thanks for making our Middle School one that all of us are proud to be associated with! **GMS** is off and running in 2008!

## Student Transfer Application Week:

Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>

Students in Greater Victoria School District follow a pathway from elementary school to middle school to secondary school. Students at all grade levels (K-12) wishing to change schools or pathway will need to complete a Student Transfer Application Form, which is available at all schools and on the District website, [www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca). **Our school's pathway is Glanford Middle School to Spectrum Secondary School.** Thus the only Glanford students who will need to complete a Student Transfer application for 2008-2009 will be:

- 1) current Grade 8 students wishing to attend any School District 61 secondary school other than **Spectrum Secondary School** (for example, **Reynolds Secondary School**), or,
- 2) current Grades 6 or 7 students wishing to attend another School District 61 middle school.

You will find additional information regarding the transfer process in our school district on this website. Please contact Mr. Scigliano if you have any questions regarding the student transfer process for our school district.

## Athletics at **GMS**

We have had 6 basketball teams this year at **GMS**! Congratulations to all of the players, the coaches, and parent volunteers that helped make this one of the greatest seasons ever for basketball at **GMS**! In addition, we have had the annual 2-ball challenge, luring over 40 participants - congratulations to the winning team - Emma E. and Alex N. from Grade 6! Emma and Alex had the top score in the 2-ball challenge final, and will represent **GMS** at the city finals, scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> up at UVIC during the VIKES basketball games. Congratulations and great job, everyone! We have also been pleased to offer "Hoops for Heart", a fundraising event that supports The Heart and Stroke Foundation while promoting physical fitness and an active lifestyle. Congratulations and thank you goes to all of the students, staff, and parents that supported this important endeavor.

## Upcoming Foundation Skills Assessment

During the month of February, students throughout British Columbia will write Foundation Skills Assessments in the areas of Writing, Reading Comprehension, and Numeracy. The [Foundation Skills Assessment](#) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how

well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. FSA is designed and developed by British Columbia educators. The skills tested are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial [performance standards](#). This year, two of the six assessments will be administered electronically, with the remainder in booklet format. Each student will receive their individual results and personal booklets later in the Spring, while schools will use overall results as one source of data to consider when planning for improved student learning. If parents have any questions about this year's FSA assessments, please contact Mr. Scigliano or Mrs. Wooster.

### Upcoming GMS Ski Trip



We are very pleased to be offering a **GMS** ski trip to Mt. Washington, scheduled for Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. This enhancement to our program is optional for students in all three grades this year. For those students who choose not to attend the planned ski trip, we will be offering a regular day at school, which will include recreational opportunities- details for those choosing not to go to Mt. Washington are currently being planned out and will be communicated to all families. A ski trip information package has been passed out to every **GMS** student, and if you choose to have your child attend, we ask your assistance in completing the forms carefully, submitting them to advisory teachers as soon as possible, and at the very latest, **by Friday, February 1st.**



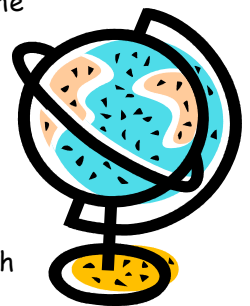
### Student Supervision at GMS

As a reminder, it is important that **GMS** families know that the supervision of students at **GMS** before and after instructional time commences at 8:10 AM before school, and runs until 3:15 PM after school. We offer the use of the library and the computer lab for students before school, commencing at 8:10 AM. Additionally, teachers have been making arrangements for extra assistance for students before school in advisory classes. Most mornings, we also have band/strings in the music room, and sports team practices occurring in the gym. We do not have any supervision in the hallways before classes begin at 8:40 AM, and students have been asked to not be at their lockers or in the hallways at that time. Entrance to the school is limited to the front doors of the school when entering before regular class time.



### Homestay Families Needed For International Students

Did you know that over the years the Victoria School District has welcomed students from more than 50 different countries? The students are registered through the Victoria International High School Programs and most students stay with a Canadian homestay family while studying here. The family provides the student with room, board and parental guidance, plus support with language acquisition and cultural adaptation. Host families learn first-hand about the culture of their student guest and they receive monthly remuneration.



VIHSP currently has more than 600 international students studying in Victoria schools, so we are looking for new homestay families within the school district. If you are interested and need more information about homestay for international students, please contact Susan Lawrence, Homestay Coordinator, at [slawrence@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:slawrence@sd61.bc.ca), or call 592-6871 for a homestay application package and an invitation to the next homestay orientation meeting.

### Upcoming Important Dates

- ♦ Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> - Mini-Exploratory Blocks - the 23 options for kids are posted on the school website for your perusal
- ♦ Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> - last day to submit Mt. Washington forms
- ♦ Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> - Grade 7 Foundation Skills Assessments
- ♦ Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - GMS PAC meeting - all parents welcome to attend, 7 PM, Library
- ♦ Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> - Information night for parents regarding transition from Grade 5 schools to Grade 6 at **GMS** - 7 PM in the library
- ♦ Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> - Egypt Night for B1, B2, and B5 classes, 6 PM - 7:30 PM
- ♦ Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> - Non-Instructional Day - school not in session
- ♦ Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> - Optional School wide **GMS** Ski Trip to Mt. Washington or special day planned at GMS for those children choosing not to go skiing
- ♦ Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> - AVID parent information night for interested parents of grade 8 students, 7 PM, Spectrum Library - this is a reminder, as information went out in a letter to grade 8 parents
- ♦ Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> - Transition Week in SD 61; please see detailed information on the school district website, <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/> regarding information nights for secondary schools and details of the transfer process
- ♦ Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> - Glanford Patisserie Night

***See you in and around Glanford!***

Louie Scigliano, Principal  
Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

## HANDWASHING FOR HEALTH

Germs spread easily in a classroom. Handwashing is the most effective way to stop the spread of germs that cause colds, influenza, diarrhea and other illnesses. It is important children learn how and when to wash their hands to decrease their risk of getting sick.

### How to Wash Hands:

- ◆ **Wet** hands under warm running water
- ◆ **Scrub** with soap for a count of **20**, all over hands and between fingers
- ◆ **Rinse** under running water for a count of **5**
- ◆ **Dry** hands with a clean paper towel
- ◆ **Turn** off taps with a paper towel

### When to Wash Hands:

- ◆ Before eating or handling food
- ◆ After using the toilet, handling pets, coughing, sneezing, or wiping noses

### How long is 20 seconds?

- ◆ Slowly singing Happy Birthday twice takes about 20 seconds

For more information contact:

- ◆ Your local Health Unit
- ◆ BC Nurse Line (1-866-215-4700) a free call
- ◆ BC Health Files [www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm](http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm)

### 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