




GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 30, 2007

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 a very positive tone in the school 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 are thrilled with the respectful manner in which our students conduct themselves.

*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

On October 15th, 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. Our parent teacher conferences over the past two weeks were an excellent opportunity for these conversations.

*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! Ask your child about his/her favorite choices from the 20 choices they were able to choose from:

1. Quilted Placemats
2. Jewelry Making
3. Comics and Graphic Novels
4. World Games
5. Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten
6. Chess Anyone?
7. Teen Centre at Saanich Commonwealth
8. Jazzercise
9. Craft Angels
10. Painted Bird Houses
11. Curling
12. Music Improvisation
13. Geocaching
14. Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!
15. Volleyball
16. Scrapbooking!
17. Claymation Movie
18. Hiking and Games
19. Flag Football
20. Basketball Skill Development
21. Mini Magazines

The mini-x blocks for round one will take place on four consecutive Wednesday afternoons, with the dates being **Wednesday November 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th**. Thanks so much to the staff and to three parents from our learning community (Mrs. Green, Mr. Edley, and Mrs. Uppal) for getting involved with mini-x at GMS!

Athletics at GMS

Wow! We are definitely an athletic middle school! The interest in sports has been overwhelming at **GMS**, and we are proud 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 girls with **Mr. Flello** and **Mr. Leischner**
- Grade 8 boys with **Mr. Gerhardt**
- Grade 6/7 boys with **Mr. Seaberg**
- Grade 6/7 girls with **Mr. Scigliano** and **Ms. Cannon**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 also participated in **Cross Country running** under the leadership of **Mrs. McKillop, Ms. Chiappetta** and **Mrs. Reicker**. **Thanks to Mrs. Rushton** as she was once again the coordinator for the entire cross country program this year. These athletes have trained hard and participated over the course of six weeks in various events. 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 basketball. We have coaches getting ready for the basketball season – interested students will be called together and 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. Flello**, 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 Take a moment to visit the web page – there is so much to see about the day to day activities at **GMS** - you will enjoy it!

Upcoming Important Dates

- ◆ Tuesday, November 6th – GMS PAC meeting, 7 PM in school library, all parents welcome
- ◆ Wednesday, November 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th – Round one of Mini-X, 1- 2 PM
- ◆ Thursday, November 8th – Musical Performance, 7 PM in the gym
- ◆ Friday, November 9th – Remembrance Day Assembly, 11 AM, parents welcome
- ◆ Monday, November 12th, Remembrance Day, School Not in Session
- ◆ Thursday, November 15th – Math Night – “Are You Smarter Than a Glanford Sixth Grader?” 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, November 30th – First term formal report cards to go home

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