



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!

This year's staff at **GMS** is committed to working with each and every student in our care. Of course, we strive to create a professional relationship with parents, as this is integral to the success of our work with our kids. This year's **GMS** staff:

Grade 6 Team

Wendy Kidd
Anna Copp/John Weston
Sherri Norbury
Micha Seaberg
Marla Margetts

Grade 7 Team

Andrew Shires/Elaine Wooster
Paul Dailyde
Brenda Rushton
Jonathan Allsopp
Bev McKillop

Grade 8 Team

Gary Beech
Derek Brooker
Cindy Kind
Vicky Cannon

Learning Support Mary Chiappetta, Lisa Marczyk

Exploratory Team

Cidalia Alvernaz - Wood Working
Glenda Vander Ende - Home Economics
David Fello - Music, Band, and Choir

John Weston - Technology
Jennifer Maestrello - Visual Arts
Sean Welby - Strings

Librarian Mark Leischner

Secretary Teri Craig

Counselor

Diana Battie

Accounts Clerk

Jenny Reicker

Support Staff

Carol Hall
Elaine Bayles

Debbie O'Connor
Travis Kehler

Sue Shewchuk
Tina Jubinville

Lynn Cassidy

School Technology Assistant Barbara Wiggins

Custodian Fred Schmidt

Evening Custodian Caroline Waelti

Vice-Principal Elaine Wooster

Principal

Louie Scigliano

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 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 *Tamara Thorpe*, our *GMS* PAC President, for taking on the lead role in organizing this important event. A big thanks goes out to Country Grocer at Royal Oak and Thrifty Foods for the generous support of this event. The Central Saanich Lions made a great contribution by cooking all of the gourmet hot dogs - which we very much appreciate. Thanks to all of the parents and staff that pitched in to make this event a success!

School Planning and Professional Development

On Monday, September 24th, we held the first non-instructional day of the year. The staff at *GMS* spent the morning reviewing the Vision that we have for this school year. We also addressed important issues of literacy, numeracy, physical education, exploratory subjects, learning support, and teaming. Additionally, 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. A very valuable professional day was had by all!

A Snapshot of the Extra Events at *GMS*

We believe that by offering our students a variety of ways to become involved at the school, we are fostering a culture of belonging and pride. Thanks so much to the staff coaching our cross country team (Ms. Chiappetta, Mrs. Reicker, Ms. Cannon, Mrs. McKillop, and Mrs. Maestrello) and our soccer teams (Mr. Gerhardt -

student teacher, Mr. Fello, Mr. Leischner, Mr. Seaberg, Mr. Scigliano, and Ms. Cannon). Additionally, Mr. Piercy (student teacher) is offering an after school games club at this time. Great Stuff!



Attendance

If your child is going to be absent or late for school please call and report this to the school. For your convenience you can call 479-5032 and leave a message at any time of day or night.

Tour de Rock - Cops for Cancer Campaign

As you are probably aware, GMS is a big supporter of the annual Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock campaign. We believe that by supporting this worthwhile community endeavor, we are promoting empathy, compassion, and social responsibility in our learning community. Many thanks to Mrs. O'Connor for her leadership in this campaign, and to the brave students and staff that have agreed to have their heads shaved October 4th in their endeavor to raise awareness and funds for the campaign. Additionally, thanks very much to Country Grocer (ice cream) and the GMS PAC (hot dogs and snacks) for supporting this event at our school. Please join us the afternoon of October 4th for the head shavings and the morning of October 5th to cheer on the Tour de Rock team as they make their way into Victoria with a stop right here at GMS!

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 - November 7th, November 14th, November 21st, and November 28th, from 12:55 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!

Newsletter via e-mail

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail please send an e-mail to the office - tcraig@sd61.bc.ca

Glanford Middle School Library

Greetings from the Glanford library. Our teacher-librarian, Mr. Leischner, is pleased to announce the return of Lynn Cassidy as the library clerk. Although they are not full-time, between them, they are hoping to keep the library open during all instructional times of the school day.

Speaking of which, the library is off to a tremendous start this year, largely due to an increased focus on independent reading. As our silent reading block in the afternoon is

now twice as long as it was previously, both staff and students are borrowing books at a record rate. In order to build upon this momentum, parents should encourage their children to silently read at home every day for at least 20 minutes.

Finally, students are reminded the library is now open before school, from 8:10 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. and at lunch time from 12:23 p.m. to 12:53 p.m. They are welcome to drop on by for a book exchange, to complete school work or to play a quiet game with friends. We'll see you in the library!

Upcoming Events in October

Tuesday, October 2nd- **GMS** PAC Meeting, 7PM in the Library - all parents welcome!

Wednesday, October 3rd - **International Walk to School Day** - We would like as many students, parents, and staff to join in this important event

Thursday, October 4th - Head Shavings at 2 PM in support of Cops for Cancer

Friday, October 5th - Cops for Cancer Tour stops at **GMS**, 8:58 AM

Monday, October 8th - Thanksgiving Day, school not in session

Friday, October 12th - Visit from Kenneth Oppel, a local established author

Monday, October 15th - Interim Reports home with all students

Wednesday, October 17th - 12:03 Dismissal to allow for Parent/Teacher conferences

Friday, October 19th - Provincial Non-Instructional Day - school not in session

Wednesday, October 24th - 12:03 Dismissal to allow for Parent/Teacher conferences



See you in and around Glanford!

Louie Scigliano, Principal

Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

School Hours for 2007/2008

Supervision begins - 8:10 a.m.

Morning classes begin - 8:40 a.m.

Nutrition Break - 9:56 to 10:11 a.m.

Lunch break - 12:03 to 12:53 p.m.

Dismissal - 2:59 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.

- 2:02 p.m. Wed.

Supervision ends - 3:14 p.m. / 2:17 p.m. (Wed.)

Calendar for 2007/2008

2007

- Tuesday, September 4th - School Opening
- Monday, September 24th - Non-instructional day
- Monday, October 8th - Thanksgiving holiday
- Wednesday, October 17th - 12:08 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conferences
- Friday, October 19th - Non-instructional day
- Wednesday, October 24th - 12:08 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conferences
- Monday, November 12th - Remembrance Day
- Friday, November 30th - Report cards sent home
- Wednesday, December 5th - 12:08 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conferences
- Friday, December 21st - Last day of school prior to Winter Break

2008

- Monday, January 7th - School re-opens after Winter Break
- Friday, February 15th - Non-instructional day
- Friday, March 14th - Reports cards sent home
- Friday, March 14th - Last day of school prior to Spring Break/Easter Weekend
- Wednesday, March 26th - School re-opens after Spring Break/Easter Weekend
- Wednesday, April 9th - 12:08 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conferences
- Friday, April 18th - Non-instructional day
- Friday, May 16th - Non-instructional day
- Monday, May 19th - Victoria Day Holiday
- Wednesday, June 25th - Last day of school for students prior to Summer Break
- Thursday, June 26th - Non-instructional Day



The one and only...District 61's "Island Ukuleles"! Get involved with one of the finest performing groups on the Island! Island Ukuleles offers an incredible education in music, including music theory, improvisation, vocal technique, ensemble performance skills and instruction in ukulele, drums, and bass.



Beginner, novice and intermediate levels (A-2/3's) meet on Mondays at Oak Bay High School, 6:15-8pm or Tuesdays at Lake Hill Elementary School, 5:50-7:30pm.

Advanced level (A-1's) meet on Mondays at Oak Bay High School 6:45-9pm.
(A-1 students receive a high school music credit.)

There are also plenty of performance opportunities for all levels of Island Ukuleles, both locally and abroad. Island Ukuleles A-1 has performed in Japan, Cuba, Hawaii and this year they are heading to Disneyland and San Francisco!

What a wonderful opportunity for you to be in a fabulous music group, making music with this incredible instrument, singing, playing concerts, traveling, meeting new friends and having more fun than you can imagine!!

For more information, please refer to our website, www.islandukulele.org
If you are interested in this program, you may also contact Music Director, Tina Horwood at tinahorwood@yahoo.ca or Music Director Melissa McKnight at melmck@valleyis.com (858-3407)

Calling All Parents and Caregivers! FREE Workshops on Child Health

Health professionals from the Vancouver Island Health Authority are offering workshops around Greater Victoria on Healthy Eating, Healthy Teeth, and Growing Up.

For parents and caregivers of:

Babies and Toddlers

Preschoolers

Children and Youth

For information on workshop dates and locations call 744-5100



- ◆ Immunize grade 6 and 9 students at schools (parental consent required). The following vaccines are provided to eligible students:
 - ◆ Meningococcal C; Hepatitis B and Varicella - grade 6;
 - ◆ Tetanus/Pertussis/Diphtheria - grade 9.