



# GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January 29, 2009

## **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 2009!

## **Student Transfer Application Week: Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday, February 27<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:

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

You will find additional information regarding the transfer process on 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 5 basketball teams this year at GMS! Congratulations to all of the players, the coaches, and parent volunteers that help make this one of the greatest seasons ever for basketball at GMS! We are also 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 are supporting this important endeavor. We really are looking forward to the shootout for Hoops for Heart, which happens in our Gymnasium on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.



## **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 during the month of February, 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 24<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 shared soon with students. 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 and submitting them to the school office as soon as possible, and at the very latest, **by Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.**

## **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.



## **GMS CLOTHING**

We have a number of items leftover from our clothing sales prior to the Christmas break – if you are interested in purchasing any of the following, please have your son/daughter come to the office with the appropriate money – we are not submitting an additional order at this time.

Hoodies: \$28 each (youth sizes only)

Blue – Med & Large & XLarge

Black – Large & XLarge

Grey – Large

Sweatpants: \$28 each (youth sizes)

\$30 each (adult sizes)

Black – Adult small,

Youth Large & XLarge

Navy – Youth Medium & Large

T-Shirts: \$14 each

Black – Adult Small

## **Entertainment Books**

The office still have a few of the Entertainment Books for sale – if you know of anyone looking for one of these books, please contact the office.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vancouver Island Parent Conference**

**Caring Communities: Engaged in our  
Childrens' Future**

**Sat. Feb. 7, 2009 8am – 4pm**

**Spectrum Community School**

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Vancouver Island Parent Conference "**Caring Communities: Engaged in our Childrens' Future.**" Students of today have far more options in their lives than ever before. As a community supporting our youth, we need to be aware of the many

choices they will be faced with; the influences in their daily lives; and how we can support them to navigate these things.

This event is open to everyone and features keynote speakers: **Steve Dotto** and **Dr. Gabor Maté**. The cost is \$60 per person for the day, including a continental breakfast, lunch and snacks (\$50 per person for the Early Bird price if you register before January 9th) Registration is required with a final deadline of Jan 28, 2009. Details are posted at [www.vcpac.ca](http://www.vcpac.ca) Presented by the School District Parent Advisory Councils of Saanich (COPACS), Sooke (SPEAC) and Victoria (VCPAC)

## **Come to the Cabaret!**

**GMS 4th Annual Cabaret and  
Patisserie**

**Wed. February 11, 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Be a part of the fun as we transform the school into a French Cabaret! Join friends, family, school staff and community members for an evening of music, art, culture and delicious desserts - everyone is welcome.

Small music ensembles will entertain in venues throughout the school in addition to featured ensembles such as the Spectrum Jazz Band and the Prelude Symphony Orchestra. Local artists will be demonstrating their talents on site, while the library is turned into an open mic performance venue. Practice your French in our new French Cafe staffed by French-speaking student servers and featuring intimate musical entertainment at candle-lit tables. The night will wrap up with everyone playing music together and the draw from our recent music raffle. This event is hosted by the Glanford Music

Parents Association for the enjoyment of everyone in the GMS community. We particularly appreciate the generous support of our many sponsors. The previous Cabaret nights have been a tremendous success and we're sure that this year's festivities will be even better!

The ticket price of \$5.00 will include a delicious piece of decadent cake from Cakes Etc. as well as Level Ground coffee, Silk Road tea and other beverages. Students and children can join us free of charge and purchase slightly less decadent desserts on site. Be sure to bring a few dollars along with you to participate in the French Cafe or in case you're tempted with an art purchase or a bulk coffee order from Level Ground. Tickets order forms will be going home with music students soon and will be made available to everyone else as well. Tickets may be purchased at the door, assuming there are any left! See you at the Cabaret...

### **Litterless Lunch**

This year at Glanford we have a new club called Destination Conservation. Our aim this year is to inform the Glanford students on ways to reduce the amount of waste at our school and ways to conserve energy. On February 3 we are challenging all of the students and staff to bring a LITTERLESS lunch. Try bringing fresh fruit on February 3 instead of pre-package foods. Also, try putting the rest of your lunch into re-usable plastic containers. Our hope is that we can reduce garbage that day by at least one large bag. We can do it Glanford!

### **Internet Safety**

It is common practice for middle school students to access the internet at home. The internet is an amazing resource of information and, when used properly, can provide a huge amount of excellent information. However, when used to harm others via cyber bullying and threats, the internet becomes a tool to cowardly hurt others. Police Departments are taking this matter seriously. At our school, we have been facing a number of cyber bullying issues and some of our students have been hurt by this. In an effort to address this serious matter, the GMS PAC sponsored a presentation by Darren Laur from the Victoria Police Department and his company, Personal Protection Systems. Mr. Laur made two presentations to GMS students, one to all grade six students, and a longer, more in-depth presentation to our grade seven and eight students. As a result of Darren's presentation, we feel that GMS students have taken a good look at how they are using the internet at home, specifically what their personal profiles they have created represent, how to recognize inappropriate lures from chat rooms, and cyber bullying. Many students have access to the internet at home and are unsupervised by parents. This presentation was a good reminder that parents need to know about the communication their kids are having on the internet and intervene at the first sign of cyber bullying or inappropriate use of technology. Thanks very much to the GMS PAC for sponsoring Darren Laur's presentation. Please ask your child about it.

## Upcoming Important Dates

- Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> – Mini-Exploratory Blocks – the 23 options for kids are posted on the school website for your perusal
- Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>– last day to submit Mt. Washington forms
- Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – We have a three week window of time to administer the six Grade 7 Foundation Skills Assessments
- Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – GMS PAC meeting – all parents welcome to attend, 7 PM, Library
- Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – Information night for parents regarding transition from Grade 5 schools to Grade 6 at **GMS** – 7 PM in the library

- Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Glanford Patisserie Night
- Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – Hoops for Heart Shootout in our gym 12:15 PM
- Friday, February 13 – Valentine’s Dance – Gr. 7 & 8 – 1 p.m.
- Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
- Tuesday, February 24<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

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

Louie Scigliano, Principal

Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal



## LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES AND VALENTINE’S DAY

We recognize that Valentine’s Day is a time of celebration with friends, family and food; however, there are students in our school with life-threatening food allergies and these students are especially vulnerable at this time.

You can help to keep these students safe by celebrating with stickers, games or prizes and keeping peanut and nut containing products at home during and after celebrations such as Valentine’s Day, birthdays, class and end of the year parties.

For more information contact:

- ◆ Your local Health Unit
- ◆ Dial-A-Dietitian 1-800-6673438 OR [www.dialadietitian.org](http://www.dialadietitian.org)
- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Your doctor
- ◆ Your pharmacist



### Health Units:

Esquimalt	250-360-5600	Salt Spring Island	250-538-4880
Outer Gulf Islands	250-539-3099	Sooke	250-642-5464
Peninsula	250-544-2400	Victoria	250-388-2200
Saanich	250-519-5100	West Shore	250-478-1757