



# GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 30, 2008

## *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. Thanks so much 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.*

## *Parent – Teacher Conferences*

We believe in open communication between home and school and were delighted with the first parent-teacher conferences held on the two afternoons of October 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all parents that took time to come in to tell us more about their child – this is invaluable to us in our teaching. 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 were an excellent opportunity for these conversations.

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



### ***Pam Withers Visits GMS***

On Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, our school was treated to a visit from Canadian author Pam Withers. With a focus on writing in our annual school growth plan, this was an amazing presentation for all of us! Pam has published TEN books with the theme of "extreme sports". Mr. Leischner has picked up copies of her books for our library and students have been busy signing them out. She shared with all of us some of the techniques she uses in her writing, and went into depth how she researches her topic by working with experts in the particular field of the topic in which she is writing. Pam's presentation was enriched with graphic video footage and her manner was extremely well received by our students and staff. From this presentation, our students have embarked on a school-wide write. All students will participate in this writing activity. Our goal is to continue to build the skills of our students in writing. The staff at GMS are planning to collaboratively share the results of the writing, in turn, use the assessments to inform our teaching. This is an example of the Glanford professional learning community at work! We feel this technique is a great way to assist us in improving the writing skills of our students.

### ***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 23 choices they were able to choose from:

1. Rugby Rugby Rugby
2. Flag Football
3. Volleyball
4. Skateboarding
5. Curling
6. Floor Hockey
7. Teen Centre at Saanich Commonwealth
8. Kin-Ball
9. Norwegian Baking
10. Iron Chef GMS
11. Clay Magic
12. Craft Angels
13. Card Making
14. Garden Path Rocks
15. Beyond Origami
16. Get Ready for Christmas
17. Check Mate
18. GMS Newspaper
19. Web Design with Dreamweaver
20. So You Think You Can Dance
21. Game Mania – The Settlers of Catan and Other Games
22. Its All Rocket Science to Me
23. Warhammer 40K



The mini-x blocks for round one will take place on four consecutive Wednesday afternoons, with the dates being **Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks so much to the staff and parents from our learning community 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!** For the first time ever, we offered a new sport known as "Aquathon". This is two-thirds of a triathlon, where students swim and then run. Thanks so much to **Mrs. Wooster** for initiating this new sporting opportunity with our students! There was a great turn-out of kids and fun had by all! With **soccer**, all of our teams have

now wound up their season - a great job by all, and of course, lots of fun had by all! Thanks to our soccer coaches:



- Grade 7/8 girls with **Mr. Scigliano**
  - Grade 7/8 boys with **Mr. Brooker**
  - Grade 6/7 boys with **Mr. Seaberg**
  - Grade 6/7 girls with **Mrs. Seaberg**

With soccer and Aquathon wrapping up, we are now turning to **volleyball**. We have coaches getting ready for the volleyball season – interested students have been called together and all students in grades 6, 7 and 8 have been invited to play!



### **Music and Fine Arts**

We are delighted to see so many **GMS** students choosing Band and Strings! Our teacher for band and music, **Ms. Gerrits**, is delighted with the enthusiastic band members and their commitment to music. Our strings teacher, **Mr. Welby**, is off and running with beginner and advanced strings players. The first musical performance of the year was held Tuesday evening of this week – great performance everyone – congratulations! 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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> – GMS PAC meeting, 7 PM in school library, all parents welcome
- Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> – Round one of Mini-X, 1- 2 PM
- Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day Assembly, 11 AM, parents welcome
- Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day, School Not in Session

### **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 a requirement for bicycles, rollerblades, 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 limiting candy to once a day after a meal, followed by toothbrushing.
- ◆ 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:

- ◆ Child, Youth and Family Community Health Dental/Nutrition: 250-519-5100