



# GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2008

## 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 have been surveying our grade sixes to attain feedback on how good they feel about being part of the learning environment of **GMS**. We look forward to reviewing 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                      Micha Seaberg  
Anna Copp                        Sherri Norbury

### Grade 7 Team

Elaine Wooster/Sean Welby/Louie Scigliano  
Paul Dailyde                    Andrew Shires  
Marla Margetts                Jonathan Allsopp

### Grade 8 Team

Gary Beech                      Cindy Kind  
Derek Brooker                Vicky Seaberg  
Brenda Rushton

Learning Support    Bev McKillop, Jenny Ohl,  
Mary Chiappetta

## Exploratory Team

Cidalia Alvernaz – Wood Working  
Glenda Vander Ende – Home Economics  
Jenny Ohl – Visual Arts  
John Weston – Technology  
Pam Gerrits – Music, Band, and Choir  
Sean Welby - Strings

Librarian            Mark Leischner  
Counselor            Diana Battie  
Admin. Assistant    Teri Craig  
Accounts Clerk        Jenny Reicker

## Education Assistants

Carol Hall                      Debbie O'Connor  
Sue Shewchuk                Lynn Cassidy  
Elaine Bayles                Travis Kehler  
Tina Jubinville

## School Technology Assistant

Barbara Wiggins

Custodian                Fred Schmidt  
Evening Custodian    Chris Wightman

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! We had a great turnout of families 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 our GMS PAC for organizing this important 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, we held the first non-instructional day of the year. The staff at **GMS** spent the morning working alongside our colleagues from the Spectrum Family of Schools. The topic was "Learn to Organize, Organize to Learn" – a variety of strategies were shared with respect to transitioning students elementary, to middle to secondary school in the Spectrum Family. We also spent time working in our teams of teachers and support staff to help enrich the learning experience of our students this year. The two formal goals that we have for our school community this year are the following: 1) To maximize student involvement and leadership in the highly successful culture established at GMS, and 2) To raise achievement in student writing skills and instill a positive attitude and joyfulness towards the writing process. 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. We have an **environmental club** that has started at our school – Destination Conservation – sponsored by Mrs. Copp and Ms. Kind. Additionally, thanks so much to the staff coaching our first athletic offerings of the year – first of all, "Aquathon" – combining **cross country running and swimming** (Mrs. Wooster, Mrs. Reicker, and Mrs. Cassidy) and our **soccer teams** (Mr. Seaberg – Junior Boys, Mr. Brooker – Senior Boys, Mrs. Seaberg – Junior Girls, and Mr. Scigliano – Senior Girls). We encourage our students to find ways to contribute to our learning community and to become involved in the variety of events offered at GMS.

### **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 and Mrs. Wooster for their leadership in this campaign, and to the brave students and staff that have agreed to have their heads shaved October 1<sup>st</sup> in their endeavor to raise awareness and funds for the campaign. Please join us at 11 AM on October 1<sup>st</sup> for the head shavings, and the morning of October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:25 AM to cheer on the Tour de Rock team as they make their way into Victoria with a stop right here at GMS!

### **Parent / Teacher Conferences**

We have arranged for two afternoons of early dismissal of students to allow for parent / teacher conferences. This conference time is intended for parents to share information about their child with teaching staff, and for teachers to share initial observations of our students. The two dates for these are Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. All students will be dismissed at 12:03 PM on those days so that parents and teachers can meet. If you have not already completed the YELLOW Parent / Teacher conference sheet, please contact the school and ask to speak with your child's teacher. We feel that it is important that all parents meet with the staff for these first conferences of the year.

### **Newsletters via e-mail**

If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail and are not already doing so, please send an e-mail to [tcraig@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tcraig@sd61.bc.ca) to add your e-mail information to our distribution lists. Thank you



### **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, athletics, 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and November 26<sup>th</sup>, 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!

### **Upcoming Events in October**

- Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Cops for Cancer Head shaves in the gym at 11 AM; **Early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences at 12:03 PM**; Grade 7/8 Girls Soccer Jamboree at GMS 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock stops at GMS, 11:25 AM – parents welcome to join us for this most amazing event!
- Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> – **GMS PAC Meeting, 7PM** in the Library – all parents welcome!

- Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day, school not in session
- Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – GMS Gym used for Federal Polling Station
- Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - Early dismissal 12:03PM -parent/teacher conferences
- Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Visit from Pam Withers, professional author
- Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
- Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Music Concert, 7 PM
  - Photo re-takes this morning – if you wish a retake please return the original photo package to the photographer at this time

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

***Louie Scigliano, Principal***

***Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal***



## WHO SHOULD GET THE INFLUENZA (FLU) VACCINE

Influenza (flu) is a highly infectious disease of the nose, throat and lungs caused by a virus. Influenza is easily spread from person to person through breathing, coughing and sneezing.

Students who are identified by their doctors as being at “high risk” for influenza should get influenza vaccine, including:

- ◆ Students with ongoing heart, lung or kidney disease, or with asthma, diabetes, cancer, anemia, or immune system disorders are especially at risk, and should get influenza vaccine every year
- ◆ Students being treated with acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or aspirin) for long periods of time are also at high risk, and should get the vaccine

Influenza vaccine is also recommended for:

- ◆ Healthy siblings and adults living in the same house as “high risk” students
- ◆ Children between the ages of 6 months and 23 months
- ◆ Siblings and adults living in the same house as children 23 months or younger

Influenza vaccine is available through health units and physicians. The vaccine is free for anyone in the above groups.

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)
- ◆ Your doctor

### 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