



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

February 26, 2010

Hello **GMS** Families!



We bring February to a close this week and we prepare for Spring at **GMS** - WOW!

Activities at **GMS**

One thing we continue to learn about young adolescent learners in Middle Schools is the need for kids to interact socially. At **GMS**, we are privileged to have so many staff members that give willingly of their time to allow opportunities for our kids. We have just come off a magnificent day of skiing up at Mt. Washington, with over 350 **GMS** students, staff, and families participating - thanks so much to **Mrs. Craig** and **Mrs. Reicker** for their masterful organization of this huge event! About 80 students chose not to attend the ski trip and had a wonderful day full of fun-filled activities here at the school.

Volleyball season is now winding down, and we have been delighted to have teams wearing **GMS** jerseys for volleyball - grade 6/7 boys with **Mr. Brooker**, grade 6/7 girls with **Mrs. Norbury**, grade 7/8 girls with **Mr. Shires**, and grade 7/8 boys with **Mr. Allsopp** and parent **Rob Basi**. Thanks also to **Mr. Seaberg** for his expert officiating, **Mrs. McKillop** for organizing the concession, **Ms. Jubinville** for her assistance, and **Mrs. Rushton** for her organization of the wonderful student officials. Congratulations to all involved. Currently, **Mr. Dailyde** has been hosting a grade 6 floor hockey club on Friday afternoons. This has been great exercise and lots of fun for our boys and girls! Our next team activities will be field hockey under the leadership of **Mrs. Rushton**, and rugby under the leadership of **Mr. Seaberg**.



Our fifth annual **Cabaret and Patisserie Night** was a HUGE success this year! It has been amazing to see the event evolve to include not only **GMS** students and staff, but students and staff of neighboring secondary schools as well as local artists. The emphasis on fine arts, allowing students to perform in a number of ways, combined with delicious desserts and donations from the community helped create a most amazing atmosphere. Thanks so much to **Ms. Gerrits**, **Mr. Welby**, and **Mrs. Ing** for their leadership, parent **Jeannie Burns** and the countless number of parents that volunteered their time, the **GMS** staff for their support and for the kids for making it happen! We are proud of you!



Internet and Facebook Safety

Social websites like Facebook have made it possible for people all over the world to connect and stay in touch easily. However, kids that choose to bully other kids on Facebook is a problem. It's not as easy to protect your children as it once was, but there are safeguards you can use to protect them from bullying on Facebook. Create a Facebook account for yourself. If you want to protect your child on Facebook, you must be on the site yourself. Require your child to be your Facebook friend. This allows you to see all activity on his/her page. You can see who he/she is friends with and the types of comments being left for him/her. This will help eliminate much of the bullying on Facebook right away. Insist on knowing your child's password for Facebook and make sure he/she understands that you will use it to sign into his/her account on occasion. This is necessary to check for bullying by private message. While most activity on Facebook is viewable by all your friends, private messages are not. Search for bullying groups on Facebook. Parents can type in "groups" in the search box at the top of the Facebook homepage. That takes you to the Groups homepage. From there you can search the

groups for your child's full name. It has become a trend on Facebook for kids to set up "I Hate So-and-So" groups that are used to bully a child. Parents should immediately report any groups or messages that appear to be bullying their child on Facebook. Click on the group name and then scroll down to the bottom of the screen. Click on the "Report Group" icon. Report a single person's bad behavior by clicking on "Report This Person" on that person's profile screen. Since you must be friends to see the person's profile page, you must be signed into your child's account to do this. But don't worry; the reporting is done anonymously, and no one will ever know your child was the one to report bad behavior.

How to Bully-proof yourself on Facebook - Accept Friend Requests from People You Know

In order to prevent harassment from strangers, be careful to accept friend requests only from people you know in real life and remember to report any messages or profiles that look suspicious. Facebook is based on a real-name culture, and fake profiles are regularly disabled when they're reported. Only confirmed friends can post to your Wall or contact you via Facebook Chat, so if you're worried that someone will make inappropriate posts or send offensive messages, just ignore that person's friend request

How to Bully-proof Yourself on Facebook - Use the Block Feature

A block prevents specific people from viewing your profile. When you use this feature, any ties you currently have with them will be broken and they won't be able to contact you through Facebook. You can block another user by listing his or her name in the "Block People" box at the bottom of your Privacy Settings page.

Report Abusive Behavior

The most efficient way to report abuse is to do it in the same place it occurs on Facebook. For example, if you receive a harassing message in your Inbox from someone who is not your Facebook friend, you can report it by clicking on the "Report" link next to the sender's name as you are reading the message. If you receive a harassing message from a Facebook friend, you should remove that person as a friend and report the message. Reporting a message will automatically add the sender to your Block list. You can also use the "Report/Block person" link that appears at the bottom of the abusive user's profile. Reports are confidential and the user being reported does not know about the report.

Customize Your Privacy Settings

Facebook offers granular privacy settings that allow you to customize what information you share and with whom. By customizing the settings on the Privacy Settings page, you can control who views your information, dictate who can find you in searches, and see your Wall, profile and photos, among other things.

Respond to Abusers in the Right Way

Cyber-bullies often seek a reaction from the people they harass. When they fail to get one, they often will give up. Rather than respond to a bully via an Inbox message, a Wall post or Facebook Chat, you can delete offensive posts from your Wall or messages from your Inbox and then use the Block or Report functions to resolve the issue. To delete an offensive Wall post, select the "Remove" button that appears in the upper right-hand corner. To delete a message from Inbox, simply click the "Delete" button at the top of the message. Only confirmed friends can post to your Wall or send you a message through Chat. If you are receiving posts and Chat messages you don't like, you should consider removing the sender from your friends list.

Hoops for Heart

We would like to thank the students and staff for their amazing effort to contribute to this



year's *Hoops for Heart* campaign. Almost 20 GMS students went out and received sponsors of support as they shot as many baskets as possible in one minute. At this point, we don't have a final total raised for Heart and Stroke research, but we are overwhelmed by the participation of our students. Congratulations to all of the students involved and a big thanks goes out to **Mrs. Copp, Mrs. Margetts, and Mr. Brooker** from our staff for helping out. Thanks to **everyone** that supported this important campaign!

Journeys of the Heart: Hulitan Social Services

The **Journey's of the Heart** Program is a place where Aboriginal children between the ages of 3-5 and their caregivers can come to meet new friends, learn the skills they need for kindergarten and celebrate their culture. Hulitan Social Services Society is dedicated to making a difference in our families' lives. The community asked for an educational program that honored the diversity of our nations and honored our unique status in Canada. We now provide the **Journey's of the Heart** program in SD 61 at George Jay Elementary School. At George Jay Elementary the program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a morning program from 9-11:30am and an afternoon program from 1-3:30 pm. Come and join us in celebrating who we are as Aboriginal people. Let us work together to help our children have better success in the public school system. ***It takes a whole community to raise a child!*** Contact Info: (250) 384-9466 or www.hulitan.ca

Upcoming Important Dates (please note Spring Break/Return to School Dates Below)

- Tuesday, March 2nd - Musical Performance for whole school by "Project Soul", 9 AM; GMS PAC meeting in our Library, 7 PM - all parents welcome!
- Wednesday, March 3rd - Spectrum and Reynolds Secondary counselors here to see grade 8 students regarding course selection for grade 9; Grade 8s visit Spectrum to see "Once Upon a Mattress"
- Friday, March 5th - Last day of classes before Spring Break
- Monday, March 22nd - School re-opens after Spring Break
- Friday, March 26th - report cards come home

See you in and around **GMS!**

Mr. Scigliano, Principal, and
Mrs. Wooster, Vice-Principal

RAISING SAFE KIDS

Information No Parent Should Be Without!

On **Wednesday, March 31st at 6:30 p.m.**, Strawberry Vale's PAC is hosting an **evening seminar for parents**. Come hear Sergeant Darren Laur, from Personal Protection Systems, and also a serving Victoria Police Officer, discuss ways to keep our children safe in today's world.

Become empowered with knowledge and preparedness for raising our children to be "Informed, Defensible and Safe". Darren's motto "**Enlighten not Frighten**" – teaches parents tools to guide their children to be safe, without scaring them. There are many parenting seminars out there, but Darren is definitely someone that provides excellent, up-to-date information with lasting impact.

Tickets are available at the school office, in addition to being sold at seven other schools within our community. **Admission is \$5 per person.**

Seating is limited, so buy your tickets soon, to avoid missing out on this highly anticipated event!

For ticket or general information contact:

Joy @ jandtharrison@shaw.ca or Jill @ jillandrandy@telus.net.

Awareness is the key to personal child safety.