



GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 22, 2009

Dear Parents & Guardians,



The end of October is near, and at **GMS**, the school continues to be an amazing environment for teaching and learning. By combining high expectations for behavior and commitment to our learning, we have 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. We are thrilled with the respectful manner in which our students have conducted themselves. Students have set goals for themselves, and they are truly living by the code of conduct that is an important part of our school.

*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 7th and 21st. 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

**Sigmund Brouwer Visits GMS -
Upcoming Author Visit**

GMS is pleased to play host to visiting author, Sigmund Brouwer on Wednesday, October 28th! With close to three million books in print, Alberta native Sigmund Brouwer is a celebrated novelist and children's book author. Our own library currently boasts a wide selection of his very popular sports novels. During his presentations, Brouwer often admits that he finds writing difficult. What you might not hear him say is that he barely passed his high school English classes. But, during an undergraduate English course in college, his professor encouraged him to keep practicing, and because he loved telling stories, he began to write them and send them to magazines. Finally, after seven years of rejection letters and about 2,000 pages of writing, he had his first story published. To read more about this gifted author, simply visit the **GMS Library Website** and click on the Sigmund Brouwer link under **Wonderful Websites**.

Curriculum Completion Days

This school year, the ten middle schools in Greater Victoria School District will be introducing Curriculum Completion Days. These days are intended to provide additional time and opportunity for students with overdue or unsatisfactory school assignments to successfully complete the learning outcomes for their grade level prior to each report card. At

Glanford, the Curriculum Completion Days have been set for:

- Tuesday, November 10th from 1 - 3 PM
- Monday, February 22nd from 11 AM - 3 PM
- Monday, June 7th from 1 PM - 3 PM

A personal note will be coming home with each student in advance of our curriculum completion days. For the November 10th afternoon, each child will bring home a note from their advisory teacher on Tuesday, November 3rd. This note will inform families if a child is required or not required to attend. Parents of those students required to attend will also receive a personal phone call from their child's teacher. For students not required to attend, they will be dismissed at 12:06 PM. It is important to note that any GMS student may choose to remain for the afternoon and will be provided a quiet, supervised place to read/work quietly - there will be a place for parents to indicate that they wish for their child to be in attendance for Curriculum Completion Days on the form referred to above.

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 varied choices they are able to choose from. These choices will appear on the school web page once finalized. The mini-x blocks for round one will take place on four consecutive Wednesday afternoons, with the dates being **Wednesday November 4th, 18th, 25th, and December 2nd**. Thanks so much to the staff and parents from our learning community for getting involved with mini-x at *GMS*!

*Safety at *GMS**

One of our highest priorities at our school is the safety of all of the students and staff while in the building. To that end, we regularly practice fire drills, ensuring the entire school population is able to exit the building quickly and quietly. Later in the year, we will be conducting an earthquake drill, ensuring that our plan of evacuation that has been developed can be implemented effectively. Additionally, we will be conducting a Lockdown Drill on Tuesday, November 3rd at 9:45 AM. Schools practice lockdown drills in order to prepare for the unlikely event that we would have to go into lockdown due to a potential threat to our safety. We will keep this low key, but wanted to share with parents that this practice drill is coming up at the start of November.

GMS Library News

Once again, our library continues to buzz with a variety of activities during instructional and non-instructional times. Mr. Leischner is pleased to say we are currently circulating approximately 1,000 items throughout the school, which is a testament to the strong readership at *GMS*. New items are arriving daily and our recently self-appointed library monitors are just now beginning to 'learn the ropes' in this small but busy environment.

On a more sombre note, our year-end inventory in June revealed the loss of a number of library books. As such, we are urging all families to scour their bookshelves in the hope of recovering some of these missing items. Our books are easy to spot, what with their distinctive spine labels, barcodes and *GMS* stamps on the inside cover. If found, please have your child return these items as soon as possible.

Finally, staff, students and parents are invited to visit the *GMS* Library website frequently. There are numerous enrichment opportunities available for all, including contests, book reviews and writing submissions for the 2009/2010 yearbook. And don't forget the World Book Online continues to be available 24/7 for all *GMS* students. We'll see you in the library!



Athletics at GMS



Wow! We are definitely an athletic middle school!

The interest in sports has been overwhelming at **GMS**! We have had a fantastic level of participation in **Cross Country Running** with **Mrs. Rushton** and former student **Alex Cassidy**. The runners have had a very successful season. With **soccer**, all FIVE 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 8 girls with **Mr. Scigliano**
- Grade 7/8 girls with **Mr. Brooker**
- Grade 7/8 boys with **Mr. Hayward**
- Grade 6/7 boys with **Mr. Seaberg**
- Grade 6/7 girls with **Mrs. Seaberg and Mr. Cannon**

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

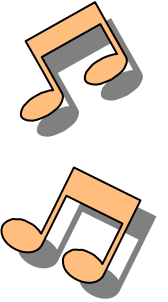
Music and Fine Arts



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. Wellby**, is off and running with beginner and



advanced strings players. This year's choir teacher, **Mrs. Ing**, is also very pleased with the enthusiasm shown by this year's choir. The first musical performance of the year will be at this year's Remembrance Day Assembly, planned for the morning of November 10th. 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

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

- Wednesday, October 28th - Canadian Author Sigmund Brouwer visits **GMS**
- Thursday, October 29th - photo re-take day
- Monday, November 2nd - "INFINITIS" the performance group plays **GMS**, 9 AM
- Tuesday, November 3rd - We will have our lockdown drill this morning: **GMS PAC** meeting, 7 PM in school library, all parents welcome

- Wednesday, November 4th, 18th, 25th, and December 2nd - Round one of Mini-X, 1- 2 PM
- Tuesday, November 10th - Remembrance Day Assembly, 11 AM, parents welcome; Curriculum Completion Day #1 from 1 PM to 3 PM
- Wednesday, November 11th, Remembrance Day, School Not in Session
- Monday, November 16th - GMPA Meeting, 7 PM

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. We were delighted to have over 65% of the school population walk to school on International Walk to School Day on October 7th. The more frequently we walk or ride to school, the less dependent we are on vehicles for our transportation to and from school. We will continue to find ways to promote healthy living and minimizing vehicular traffic around our school.



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:

- ♦ VIHA Child, Youth and Family Community Health Dental:
Victoria 250-519-5100
Toll Free 1-800-663-7867