



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

April 29, 2011

Greetings to all GMS families!

This newsletter brings us to the end of April 2011, with much to celebrate and reflect upon, as well as much to prepare for! As we enter the final two months of the school year, we delight in the many highlights of the past month around our school, as well as look forward to some of the exciting events ahead!

GMS Students are the Best!

We are so very proud of all of the students at GMS. Since the second term formal report cards went home, we are pleased to see the commitment students are making to their personal goals. Way to go, kids! At GMS, we pride ourselves on the positive climate and culture of our school. Our wonderful students are tremendous contributors to our school culture. Studio 85 continues to be a great way for us to start our day - hopefully, parents have heard all about it! The many great things happening around GMS are broadcast live on Studio 85 - our very unique live feed of daily announcements, which occurs every morning, and is sent live into all of our advisory rooms. The studio affords our grade 8 students with the opportunity to take on many important leadership roles in our school. Often, we will have staff and students from grades 6 and 7 as guests on the studio, which everyone enjoys. Beyond the students and staff being stars of the show, past celebrity visitors to the studio have included Hudson Mack, Tony Parsons, Ed Bain, Dana Hutchings, and of course, Vern and Vurn. To see some of the amazing things going on with our staff and students at GMS, please take an opportunity to visit our school's webpage - <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford/sitepages/home.htm>.

Safety Issues at GMS

We value everyone's safety while at GMS. Our closed campus is one component of our day to day life that helps keep everyone safe and accounted for. Our code of conduct is another aspect of our school culture that helps all to understand the expectations of behavior. Additionally, our school practices **fire drills** often, ensuring students and staff have a safe, exit plan that has been rehearsed and that everyone is prepared to carry out. Twice this year, we have had **Emergency Evacuation Drills for Earthquake Preparedness**. Advisory teachers have been sharing information with students regarding what to do in the event of an earth-

quake. This is timely, as the world has recently experienced a number of recent earthquakes. In addition, students have been asked to review emergency preparedness plans with their families at home.

Internet Safety and Preventing Bullying

Social networking continues to be a concern for parents and school staff. Each day, we seem to learn more about websites like Facebook. These sites 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 while using various technologies can be a problem. We have had our **Saanich Police Liaison Officer, Brad Walsh**, address this topic with our students. We are also discussing cyber bullying as a topic in our advisory classes. As parents, we need to be in touch with how our children are using social networking sites and must intervene at any sign of inappropriate communication.

Additionally, GMS has made it a focus during advisory to take on the issue of bullying. It is our view that this issue isn't widespread, but it is of concern to the GMS staff and to parents. Middle School years can bring challenging times for students socially, sometimes leading to less than acceptable behavior. We are working with our students to help them understand what bullying behavior looks and sounds like. Furthermore, we are assisting our students with strategies on "taking a stand", as difficult as that can be, when they witness hurtful remarks or bullying behavior. Thanks, parents, so much for your ongoing support with this matter at home.

Rugby, Field Hockey, Track and Field, Badminton, and Juggy League

We have been delighted with the high number of students in grades 6-8 that have given Rugby, Field Hockey, Field Events, and Badminton a try this year. These exciting sports have been led by the expertise of **Mr. Seaberg, Mr. Pite, and Mr. Gerhardt** in Rugby, **Mrs. Rushton and her daughter (Canadian Olympic Field Hockey team captain)** in field hockey, **Mrs. Hart, Mr. Beech, Ms. Kidd, student teacher Ms. Rollo, and other staff** in Field Events, and **Mr. Leischner & Mr. Dailyde** in Badminton. A game invented by a former student at GMS, Juggy, has evolved into our school taking part in our



very own Juggy League, sponsored by **Mr. Brooker** – lots of fun for all participants! We have been enjoying former GMS students, now attending Spectrum, coming back as part of their athletic leadership program to help referee our Juggy League Games.

It has been a delight to see the enthusiasm of our GMS students in these varied athletic opportunities! Way to go, kids! It continues to be our endeavor at GMS to promote team play, skill development, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all students involved and a big thanks to our many staff sponsors and parent helpers!

Band and Strings

Our Band and Strings programs continue to excel. We are very proud of the hard work and commitment made by our students with respect to practicing their instruments, and performing as a team! **Ms. Gerrits and Mr. Hurst, along with Mrs. Wooster, Mr. Shires**, and a rather large contingent of GMS students and parents have just returned from a phenomenal trip to Seattle! Congratulations to all of our musicians! A collection of photos and video clips from this amazing school journey can be found on the GMS Music page: http://www.glanfordmusic.ca/Glanford_Music/Welcome.html

Final Round of Mini – X

The third and final round of Mini-X is set for Friday, April 29th, May 6th, and May 20th. With the weather improving, many of our mini-x offerings will be taking place outside. As in the past the Mini-X activities are fully funded and supported by the amazing commitment from our GMS PAC! Thank you so much! These enrichment activities provide students an opportunity to try an activity that they may otherwise never try! All of the mini-x activities are FREE to the students, again, thanks to the GMS PAC. For a complete list of the mini-x options being offered to our students for round three, please have a look at the GMS home page, found at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford/sitepages/home.htm>.

Upcoming Transition Events

On Thursday, May 19th, our school district is hosting a Transition Afternoon. The afternoon is dedicated to allowing students an opportunity to visit the school that they will be attending in September 2011. For our grade eights, most of our students will be attending Spectrum Secondary, Reynolds Secondary, or Mt. Douglas Secondary next year; they will be spending the afternoon of May 19th at those respective schools. For neighboring students currently in grade five that will be attending GMS in September 2011, we have invited these kids to spend an afternoon with us that day. This will be a chance for these youngsters to see the school they will be attending, learn more about what to expect when they come here, and finally, get a taste of our wonderful school culture we are so proud of around **GMS!**

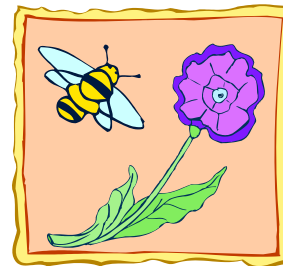
Upcoming Important Dates

- Friday, April 29th, May 6th, and May 20th – Round Three of Mini-X at GMS
- Tuesday, May 3rd – GMS PAC Meeting, in our library, all parents welcome to attend!
- Wednesday, May 11th – Class Photographs
- Thursday, May 19th – District Transition Afternoon – see notes above
- Friday, May 20th – Non-Instructional Day; students are not in session
- Monday, May 23rd – Victoria Day Holiday, students are not in session
- Thursday, May 26th – Music Year End Concerts: 1:15 PM and 7 PM

See you in and around GMS!

Louie Scigliano,
Principal

Elaine Wooster,
Vice-Principal



GMS Scholastic Book Fair Monday, May 2nd to Friday, May 6th

What Time?

Before School (8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.)

Lunchtime (12:20 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.)

After School (2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Where? GMS Library

**Remember we accept Cash, Cheques,
VISA, Mastercard, American Express & Interac**