



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

May 27, 2011

Greetings to all GMS families!

As we bring the month of May to an end, we prepare for the final month of the school year at **GMS**. We have so much to celebrate as a learning community – it is truly a privilege to be working with such a highly dedicated staff, an amazing group of students, and very supportive families. The final five weeks of this school year will be extremely active for all of us, and there is much to look forward to! Congratulations to ALL of the students that have performed in the **final music concert of the year** as well as last week's Capital City Jazz Festival – our band and strings program continues to be a pillar of our success at **GMS** – well done everyone! Many thanks to **Ms. Gerrits, Mr. Hurst, Mrs. Pollett, and Ms. Oliver** for their musical leadership this week and during the course of the school year. Wonderful!



GMS Water Walk for Africa



We are delighted to have ongoing, meaningful involvement with fundraising efforts to support students in **Tanzania**. Our students have been collecting pledges and raising funds for our **GMS Water Walk for Africa** Campaign. The culmination of the event, a Water Walk around the GMS neighborhood, is planned for Friday, May 27th. Students and staff will embark upon a walk/run/jog around the neighborhood in an effort to raise awareness and funds for students in Africa. Specifically, we are pleased to be supporting a technical school for girls in **Tanzania**. Additionally, we are committed to the tuition for one Tanzanian girl for a four year period and we are supporting **Dirma Primary School**. We are pleased to have provided electricity to this school, and are targeting our fundraising effort this year to help in the construction of a water collection system. These activities are a result of our fortunate contact with **Mrs. Catroina Harker**, a retired School District Principal now volunteering her time in Tanzania.

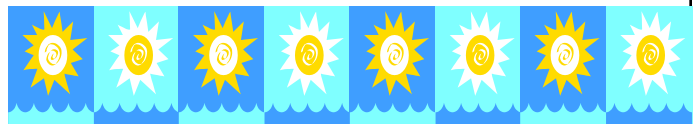
Mrs. Wooster, Mrs. Craig, and our **Me to We** group of student leaders challenged our students to get involved and to raise awareness and funds for people in Tanzania. Thank you **GMS** students, parents, and staff, for being socially responsible and **Giving** so generously.

Class Placements for 2011-12

We are beginning to plan for our classes for next year! Our grade eight students have selected their courses at various secondary schools. We have accepted a full set of incoming grade sixes. If your child is currently in grade 6 or 7 and will not be attending Glanford Middle School next year, please advise the office staff. We will be organizing 15 advisory classes – five classes at each grade level for the 2011/12 school year. As we work together to place students we consider the following factors:

- ◆ **Specific learning strengths, need and styles**
- ◆ **The child's need for attention in social, emotional and behavioral areas.**
- ◆ **The child's need for learning support or access to special education services.**
- ◆ **Interests, learning styles, effort and independence**
- ◆ **Class size and composition**
- ◆ **Male/female balance in the class**

Is your child going to be absent or late? Please call our Student Attendance Line at 250-479-5032 whenever your child is going to be away or late.



The staff at **GMS** will continue to put considerable time and effort into forming balanced classes according to the criteria noted above. Should parents wish to provide input to the class placement process (please do not request specific teacher or support staff) citing educational and social/emotional reasons, please send an e-mail to Mr. Scigliano (lscigliano@sd61.bc.ca) no later than Monday, June 6th, 2011.

Waste Management Is A Success at GMS

For about one year, we have been trying to manage our garbage at **GMS**, with the ultimate goal of having LESS garbage and more recycling. We have every advisory class taking part in our waste management program, where we organize our plastics, tin foils, refundable items, and recyclables in a tower. Students and staff take the responsibility of organizing our recyclables into larger containers throughout the school, which ultimately become sorted by our wonderful custodian, **Mr. Fred Schmidt**, and are picked up by waste management. At the last School Board Meeting, Mr. Schmidt was formally recognized with a wonderful certificate of appreciation by the school board for his commitment and his leadership in our school district to this worthwhile project. **Congratulations Mr. Schmidt!** Our intent continues to be to develop positive attitudes and changes in behavior that promote the reduction, elimination, and proper management of products that have been typically seen as "garbage". Our students are the greatest advocates for a sustainable future. Students and staff at **GMS** are excited about this important initiative at our school.

Victoria Highlanders Soccer Club Visits GMS

We are very excited to have members of the **Victoria Highlanders Soccer Club** make a visit to **GMS**. The soccer teams will be visiting GMS on **Monday, May 30th** over the lunch break. The professional local soccer teams will be promoting soccer in our community and offering students free tickets at the event for upcoming soccer games. We will be celebrating the day by having a **GMS spirit day – "Jersey Day"** – the students and staff at **GMS** are encouraged to wear their favorite soccer jersey or any team jersey that day. It will be LOTS of fun!

Parent Appreciation Breakfast

We very much value the willingness of parents to help us achieve our goals at **GMS**. The members of the Glanford PAC and the Glanford Music Parents Association are two groups of parents that do so much to help our programs succeed. Additionally, parents and grandparents of Glanford students find ways in their busy schedules to help us out with field trips, sports team outings, mini-x, and numerous other activities. The **Glanford Staff** would like to say THANK YOU to the many parents and grandparents that have volunteered their time this year! On Thursday, June 9th, our volunteers will be treated to a **"Coffee and Muffin To Go"**. When you drop your child off on June 9th, the **GMS** staff will serve you a hot coffee and a muffin to start you off on your day! This is your invitation to join us! We have asked students to ensure that our parent volunteers know about the **Coffee and Muffin To Go** event and invite them to it – we really hope you can pop by on the morning of June 9th.

The Month of June at GMS

The month of June means sunshine, classroom, grade level team as well as school-wide culminations. Each grade level team, via our advisory teachers, will inform parents of upcoming field trips and special outings planned in June. Advisory teachers have currently planned outings to Witty's Lagoon, Commonwealth Pool, Camp Qwanoes, and Wild Play, to name a few! We have not listed all of the outings in the "upcoming events" section of this newsletter, as the details have gone home / will go home to parents via classroom newsletter.

At the end of the school year, **GMS** has enjoyed a final school wide event to celebrate the end of the school year. We will be having our fourth annual school-wide year end celebration at **Beaver Lake Park** on Friday, June 24th, 2011. This will be an opportunity for us to celebrate our year with one another, take time for recreation and the outdoors, and have some fun! This will be a great outing! All of the details for this special outing will be going home via a separate letter to all parents. Additionally, the Beaver Lake Park outing information will be posted on our school website.



Upcoming Important Dates

- ◆ Wednesday, June 1st - Track and Field Finals up at UVIC 9 AM – 3:30 PM
- ◆ Monday, June 6th – Curriculum Completion Afternoon; dismissal is 11:56 AM for those students that do not have any incomplete assignments and are not required to stay for the afternoon; parents wishing their child to stay for the afternoon have the option of saying so on the information letter for curriculum completion coming home Monday, May 30th
- ◆ Tuesday, June 7th - **GMS PAC** meeting – all parents welcome – 7 PM in the library; we will also be welcoming parents of grade 5 students attending **GMS** September 2011
- ◆ Thursday, June 9th – **Parent Appreciation Coffee and Muffin to Go** event – 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM at the Judah Street Drop off location and the Glanford Drop off location. **Renaissance Fair**, hosted by the Grade 8 students and staff **6 PM – 8 PM**
- ◆ Friday, June 24th – School Wide picnic and Fun Day at Beaver Lake Park – see all of the details in separate letter coming home, as well as posted on the school web site
- ◆ Monday, June 27th – Grade 8 luncheon and Dance
- ◆ Tuesday, June 28th – Final Assembly and **Last day of Classes**; report cards go home
- ◆ Wednesday, June 29th – GMS Non-Instructional Day – classes not in session for students
- ◆ Tuesday, September 6th – GMS re-opens for the 2011/12 school year; opening day school hours are 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM



Please see the Glanford Middle School Calendar for 2010/2011 on the following page!

**Louie Scigliano, Principal,
and Elaine Wooster, Vice Principal**



Connect your family to the world... Host an International Student

Discover fascinating countries, make new friends and build lasting relationships by hosting an international student in your home. The Greater Victoria School District's **Victoria International High School Programs (VIHSP)** is seeking caring families, in SD61 neighbourhoods, to provide homestay accommodation to international students studying in the District's middle and secondary schools. **We offer the following to our host families:**

- Homestay reference manual
- Remuneration of \$825 per month for hosting
- On-going support
- Orientation

Upcoming Hosting Opportunities:

July and August – Summer ESL (2 to 8 weeks)

Fall 2011 - Short-term (1 – 3 months), Long-term – (1 semester and full-year)

If you've been wondering what it is like to host a student, a short-term placement is a good way to give it a try.

Register now and be ready to host students this Summer and Fall.

To find out more about our registered homestay program and apply on-line, please visit our website.

VIHSP, Uplands Campus, 3461 Henderson Road, Victoria, BC V8P 5A8
www.studyinvictoria.com/homestay email: homestay@sd61.bc.ca
tel: 250.592.6871





School Hours for 2011/2012

Supervision begins - 8:00 a.m.

Morning classes begin - 8:30 a.m. (8:29 a.m. on Mondays)

Nutrition Break - 9:47 to 10:02 a.m.

Lunch Break - 11:56 to 12:46

Dismissal - 2:45 p.m.

Supervision ends - 3:00 p.m.

Calendar for 2011/2012

2011

- Tuesday, September 6th - School Opening
- Monday, September 19th - Non-instructional day
- Monday, September 26th - 1:45 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conference
- Monday, October 3rd - 1:45 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conference
- Monday, October 10th - Thanksgiving holiday
- Monday, October 17th - 1:45 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conference
- Friday, October 21st - Non-instructional day
- Thursday, November 10th - 11:56 a.m. dismissal - Curriculum Completion
- Friday, November 11th - Remembrance Day
- Monday, November 21st - Non-instructional Day
- Friday, December 2nd - Report cards sent home
- Monday, December 12th - 1:45 p.m. dismissal - P/T Conferences
- Friday, December 16th - Last day of school prior to Winter Break

2012

- Tuesday, January 3rd - School re-opens after Winter Break
- Thursday, February 16th - 10:59 a.m. dismissal - Curriculum Completion
- Friday, February 17th - Non-instructional day
- Friday, March 9th - Last day of school prior to Spring Break & Report cards sent home
- Monday, March 26th - School re-opens after Spring Break
- Friday, April 6th - Good Friday
- Monday, April 9th - Easter Monday
- Friday, May 18th - Non-instructional day
- Monday, May 21st - Victoria Day Holiday
- Tuesday, June 5th - 11:56 a.m. dismissal - Curriculum Completion
- Wednesday, June 27th - Last day of school for students & Report cards sent home
- Thursday, June 28th - Non-instructional Day
- Friday, June 29th - Admin. Day - school not in session for students

