



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

November 30, 2010

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The end of November is here, and it is time to share formally with students and parents the first formal report card of the year. Parents can expect reports to come home next Friday, December 3rd. Regarding post-report card conferencing, we will be dismissing students one hour earlier than normal so that we can book parent-teacher conferences on Monday, December 13th (dismissal will be 1:45 PM). Many GMS parents have already met formally with their child's teacher and may not require an interview at this time. Should parents wish a formal interview with their child's teacher, please complete the request for interview form that will accompany the formal report card on the day it goes home. Teachers that wish to meet with parents for an interview will indicate this on the interview form as well. In the past, we have shared strategies for families as they receive a report card, so that the whole experience can be useful and positive. Being the first formal report of the year, we would like to share these ideas with you in this newsletter.

Teachers at GMS follow provincially mandated criteria as well as school district criteria when writing report cards. Reports will describe:

- what the students are able to do
- areas requiring further attention or development
- ways of supporting the student's learning

In addition to structured written comments for all report cards, middle school report cards also include letter grades. One exception to this is for students on individualized educational plans (IEP's).



When your child brings his or her report card home, we would like to suggest that you do the following things:

- * read through the report card together carefully
- * identify strengths that are communicated in the report
- * identify areas that require attention
- * discuss suggested ideas to support your child's learning
- * celebrate achievements
- * make plans for addressing areas needing attention
- * reread the report thoroughly a second time
- * jot down any questions that you may have for the teacher. At GMS, it is our intention to work collaboratively between home and school to support our children in their learning and to celebrate their successes!

Me to We and Global Citizenship

Glanford Middle School was privileged to attend a provincial learning and sharing opportunity in Vancouver called **Me to We**. Since that session, **Mrs. Wooster** and **Mrs. Craig** have been facilitating a group of grade 7, and 8 students with a variety of initiatives, including a One Hour of Silence and support for Santa's Anonymous.

Mrs. Rushton's class has initiated a school spirit event that we are calling our "Jingle Bell Run". On Friday, December 10th, students and staff are asked to bring a cash donation (a twonie) or an unwrapped toy for Santa's Anonymous. Funds and gifts collected will greatly assist children living in Victoria that are in need during the holiday season. We will attach jingle bells to our shoes and participate in a "Jingle Run" around our neighborhood. This is a great school wide event for a wonderful cause, and should be LOTS of fun! Students and staff are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to our annual pancake breakfast and pajama day scheduled for Thursday, December 16th. These donations will also be presented to the Lions Club who provide pancakes.

GMS Website

If you have not already done so, please visit our school's amazing website, which you can easily locate by going to:

www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford

You can find the following on the school web page:



Information about the staff

The three teams at GMS: The Hippy Hooplas, The Geckos, and the Rocking Rookies

A calendar for the year and upcoming events

Resources for parents and students

GMS PAC and GMPA information

Student photos and videos that capture the numerous events that occur at GMS

The school has once again invested in the World Book Online as a resource for our students. It is an invaluable resource for students when they require information and need to do research. You can find this from the GMS link listed below. To access World Book Online, you need to:

go to www.sd61.bc.ca/school/glanford

go to the library button

go to "Reference Sites"

go to World Book Online and click

for log in ID, use sd61student

for password, use athome

Remember NOT to leave spaces for the login ID or the password, and to use lower case letters. We have the required license to use this resource at home this year, and you are encouraged to try it out!

GMS is a Happening Place!

The reality of running a busy middle school has set in here at GMS. The school is buzzing with activity – academic, athletic, and social! The young adolescent learner is an interesting one – there is never a dull moment! At any time at GMS, you can feel the energy and see the activity in the building. Academics are a priority for our students, as are a variety of learning opportunities. Through student leadership activities – including Studio 85 and assemblies, dance, athletics, the computer lab and library, band and strings, as well as other fascinating activities and clubs, student opportunities to explore new, exciting things are definitely here! Being well organized at home with established homework routines and good communication with parents all helps our students enjoy an enriching middle school experience while being the best they

can be academically. A big THANK YOU goes out to our GMS PAC for their generous financial support shown for our mini-exploratory blocks – round one is now almost complete, and the students are gaining wonderful experiences. Thanks also to all of our parents for continuing to support the work we do at GMS.

Safety Around the School

Safety is a concern for us at GMS. We are concerned about the vehicle traffic around the school, particularly in the morning, and then again after school. We hope that students can walk or cycle to school. If parents must drive their child to school, we ask you to strongly consider car pooling with other GMS families. If families must drive, we ask that parents remember to use Judah Street as the main access point for drop off and picking up their child. The "school side" of Judah Street is acceptable for parking, NOT the residential side of the street. We must also avoid having vehicles "park" in the drop off and pick up zone on the Glanford side of the building. We ask that special care and attention happen at the crosswalk on Glanford Avenue as we have had some recent concerns there for student safety. Of course, bicycles and skateboards may not be used when on the school property, and safety helmets are a must. Students riding bicycles MUST FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD when riding to and from school. Safety is a huge priority! Thanks for reinforcing this with your child!



The Music Program and Athletics @ GMS

Everyone is invited to this year's winter **music concert** featuring our band, strings, and choir. The concert will be performed on Tuesday, December 7th, at 1:30 PM and again at 7 PM in our gym. Families are encouraged to come out to listen to the beautiful music of our young students!

With **athletics**, we have had many, many students participating in basketball this year – playing, and score / time keeping! The kids are having lots of fun and learning so much about the game of basketball! Great job, Mavericks!!



GMS Practices a Lockdown Drill

All schools in the Greater Victoria School District dedicate some time with students and staff to practice a Lockdown Drill. GMS had their practice drill on Monday, November 29th, 2010. In the event that the School Principal deems that students and staff may be at risk, a Lockdown may be implemented. We are showing our students that "knowledge is power". Knowing what to do and being prepared ahead of time for lockdowns, fire, or earthquake emergencies is imperative for us at GMS. Ask your child about the event.

See you in and around GMS!

Louie Scigliano, Principal &
Elaine Wooster, Vice Principal



Upcoming Important Dates at GMS

- Friday, December 3rd – First Term Report Cards come home
- Tuesday, December 7th – Music Holiday Concerts, 1:30 PM & 7 PM
- Wednesday, December 8th - GMS PAC meeting, 7 PM; all parents welcome and encouraged to attend
- Friday, December 10th—Retro Assembly, 1 PM, followed by Jingle Bell Run for Santa’s Anonymous
- Monday, December 13th – early dismissal at 1:45 PM for parent/teacher conferences
- Thursday, December 16th – GMS PAC sponsored Pancake Breakfast and Pajama Day – always lots of fun!
- Friday, December 17th – last day of classes prior to Winter Break
- Tuesday, January 4th, 2011 – school reopens



“We are now approaching the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause classes to be postponed or some School District 61 services to be suspended.

Current information will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/>

Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 a.m. if there is a concern.

Local media outlets have indicated that they will provide constant information.”



EATING TOGETHER, EATING BETTER

With busy schedules, it can be hard to arrange family meals regularly. **Finding the time for family meals is worth it.** Children who eat with an adult almost every day:

Make healthier food choices

Eat more vegetables and fruit
Eat less fat and "junk" food

Are more likely to maintain healthy growth and weight

Do better in school

And have better language skills (use of words)

Are more connected to their families and friends

And have better social skills (such as making friends)

Are less likely to engage in high risk behaviours

Such as smoking, using drugs and alcohol

Have less risk of depression and suicide

Children and teens say eating together as a family is one of the things they like to do with their parents. Eating together has benefits for the whole family.

Here are some ideas for getting started:

Make family meals a priority. Schedule meals the same way you schedule other activities.

Share any meal – breakfast, lunch or dinner.

To start, eat foods you usually eat. Just eat them together.

If children are old enough, have family members take turns choosing and/or preparing the meal items. It doesn't have to be fancy.

Keep talk positive and supportive. Focus on the good things that happened in everyone's day, such as things learned at school, holidays, good deeds done, a book you are reading or a joke you have heard.

Make preparing a meal and cleaning up family time, too. Give everyone a job; even young children can set the table.

For more information contact:

Your local Health Unit

HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 and ask to speak to a Registered Dietitian or www.healthlinkbc.ca/dietitian/

www.ellynsatter.com

www.bettertogetherbc.ca