



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

October 28, 2010

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 for all involved. At **GMS**, we value our school to be 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 afternoons of October 4th, 18th, and 25th. 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.

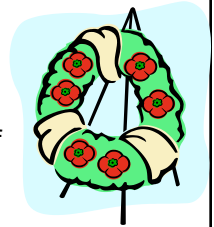
Remembrance Day Assembly

Our Remembrance Day Assembly is approaching and parents as well as grandparents are welcome to join us. It will be held on Wednesday, November 10th, starting at 11 AM. Every year as part of our Remembrance Day Assembly, a slide show that features images of Soldiers and Service People is shown. In the past, the images used have been chosen from internet image searches. We would like to start a new tradition at Glanford by personalizing this part of the program.

These photos can be of grandparents, great grandparents, fathers, mothers...family members who have served. To this end, we are asking Glanford families to provide us with images of their family members who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces in their theatre(s) of war and of peacekeeping. Along with the photo we are asking for a few descriptors including:

- Name of Soldier, Sailor, Air(man), Marine
- student relation at Glanford
- area of service
- where photo is taken and/or year photo was taken
- where/when did he or she serve
- regiment and years of service (if known)

If you would like to help us with this project, could you please scan an appropriate image and forward the image with the above information to our grade 8 teacher, Mr. Brooker, at: dbrooker@sd61.bc.ca Thanks so much, and we look forward to our annual Remembrance Day Assembly November 10th 2010.



Is Your Student Going to be Absent or Late? Please call our Student Attendance Line at 250-479-5032 whenever your student is going to be away or late

Curriculum Completion Days

This school year, the ten middle schools in Greater Victoria School District will once again be utilizing 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:

Thursday, November 18th from 12:45 PM – 2:45 PM

Thursday, February 17th from 11 AM – 2:45 PM

Monday, June 7th from 12:45 PM – 2:45 PM

A personal note will be coming home with each student in advance of our curriculum completion days. For the November 18th afternoon, each child will bring home a note from their advisory teacher on Wednesday, November 10th. 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 11:56 AM. 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!

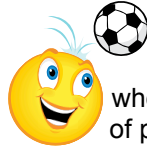
When selecting mini-x options, students were asked to consider taking a risk. Trying something students otherwise wouldn't try is what mini-x is all about! The costs associated with offering Mini-X blocks are generously covered by the GMS PAC – very much appreciated! Ask your child about his/her favorite 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 Friday afternoons, with the dates being **Friday November 5th, 12th, 19th, and December 3rd**. 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 Monday, November 22nd at 9:30 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 in November.

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 former student **Alex Cassidy** and **Mr. Leischner**.

The runners have been training at GMS and have enjoyed this opportunity. With **soccer**, 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 7/8 girls with **Mr. Gerhardt**
 - Grade 7/8 boys with **Mr. Pite**
- Grade 6/7 boys and girls recreational with **Mr. Seaberg**

With soccer and Cross Country Running 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; with the large numbers of beginner band students this year, we have been delighted to add the teaching expertise in band from **Mrs. Pollett**. Our strings teacher, **Mr. Hurst**, is off and running with beginner and advanced strings players. This year's choir teacher, **Ms. Oliver**, 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. We are very excited about the first GMS music performance, planned for December 7th. 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

- Tuesday, Nov, 2nd –GMS PAC meeting, 7 PM in school library, all parents welcome
- Friday, Nov. 5th, 12th, 19th, and December 3rd – Round one of Mini-X, 1:30- 2:45 PM
- Wednesday, November 10th – Remembrance Day Assembly, 11 AM, everyone welcome;
- Wednesday, November 11th, Remembrance Day, School Not in Session
- Monday, November 15th – GMPA Meeting, 7 PM
- Thursday, November 18th - Curriculum Completion Day #1 from 12:45 PM to 2:45 PM
- Monday, November 22nd - We will have our lockdown drill this morning
- Friday, November 26th –Professional Development Day; students not in session

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 are delighted to have so many students walking to and from school! This is excellent. 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.

Limit the number of times teeth are exposed to sugar by encouraging children to enjoy some candy at one sitting. Then, be sure to brush their teeth afterwards.

Cut down on the number of sugary treats children receive by handing out "tooth-friendly" options like stickers, temporary tattoos, fancy pens and pencils, or toothbrushes!

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
Esquimalt	250-519-5311
Nanaimo	250-739-5845

Child, Youth and Family Community Health
SN-HP-107-31-10 – Revised 2010-05-11