



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

September 27, 2010

Greetings to all Glanford Families!

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits, and we are delighted to say that the first month of school at **GMS** is now complete - what a great month it has been! It has been our intent to have all students at our school feel like they belong here - it is their place! Our standards of behavior and respect have been set high, all in an effort to create a positive, safe environment for teaching and learning. We will be surveying our grade sixes to attain feedback on how they feel about being part of the learning environment of **GMS**. We look forward to reviewing that feedback and remain committed to making our school the best it can be!

This year's staff at **GMS** is committed to working with each and every student in our care. Of course, we strive to create a professional relationship with parents, as this is integral to the success of our work with our kids. This year's **GMS** staff:

Grade 6 Team

Wendy Kidd
Anna Copp
Rhonda Leduc
Micha Seaberg
Paul Dailyde

Grade 7 Team

Aaron Pite, Elaine Wooster-
Andrew Shires
Marla Margetts, Todd Hallet
Jonathan Allsopp
Brenda Rushton

Grade 8 Team

Gary Beech
Cindy Kind
Derek Brooker
Mark Gerhardt

Learning Support Bev McKillop, Jenny Ohl

Exploratory Team

Cidalia Alvernaz - Wood Working
Glenda Vander Ende - Home Economics
Jenny Ohl - Visual Arts
John Weston - Technology
Pam Gerrits - Music, Band
Phillip Hurst - Strings
Eden Oliver - Choir

Librarian Mark Leischner

Counselor Diana Battie

Secretary Teri Craig

Accounts Clerk Jenny Reicker

Support Staff

Carol Hall Sue Shewchuk
Lynn Cassidy Elaine Bayles
Tina Jubinville Travis Kehler

School Technology Assistant Barbara Wiggins

Custodian Fred Schmidt

Evening Custodian: Mike and Shane

Vice-Principal Elaine Wooster

Principal Louie Scigliano

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

Glanford's Open House

Our Family Barbecue / Meet the *GMS* Staff evening and welcome back to school was a huge success! We had a great turnout of families to meet the staff, to hear about the upcoming year, and to see the facility. The important relationship between school and home has indeed begun, and fun was had by all! An enormous thank you goes out to our *GMS* PAC for organizing this important event, particularly our PAC Chairperson, Mr. Jeff Adams, for his leadership with this important event. Our thanks also go to parents Audrey Smith and Bonnie McCallum for all of their assistance. Thanks to all of the parents and staff that pitched in to make this event a success!

School Planning and Professional Development

On Monday, September 22nd, we held the first non-instructional day of the year. The staff at *GMS* spent the morning studying personalizing learning and 21st Century Learning Practices. The reading and writing connections we are making with students, known as RAWC, were the focus of the afternoon. The two formal goals that we have for our school community this year are the following: 1) To maximize student engagement and leadership in the highly successful culture established at *GMS*, and 2) To raise achievement in student writing skills and instill a positive attitude towards the writing process in an increasingly technological culture. These goals were created at the end of the last school year and are supported by our School Planning Council. Goals for this year will be discussed at upcoming PAC meetings, which of course all parents are encouraged to attend.

Current Athletic Offerings at *GMS*

We believe that by offering our students a variety of ways to become involved at the school, we are fostering a culture of belonging and pride. Thanks so much to the staff and community volunteers coaching our first athletic offerings of the year - Cross Country Running (Mr. Leischner and former Glanford student Alex Cassidy) and our **soccer teams** (Mr. Gerhardt - Senior Boys, and Mr. Pite -

Senior Girls). Mr. Seaberg and Mr. Scigliano will be offering in house soccer for students in grades 6 and 7 interested in playing this great game! We encourage our students to find ways to contribute to our learning community and to become involved in the variety of events offered at *GMS*.

Tour de Rock - Cops for Cancer Campaign

As you are probably aware, *GMS* is a big supporter of the annual Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock campaign. We believe that by supporting this worthwhile community endeavor, we are promoting empathy, compassion, and social responsibility in our learning community. Many thanks to Mrs. Wooster for her sustained leadership in this campaign, and to the brave students and staff that have volunteered to have their heads shaved September 29th in their endeavor to raise awareness and funds for the campaign. Please join us at 1 PM on Wednesday, September 29th for the head shavings, and the morning of Friday, October 1st at 11:18AM to cheer on the Tour de Rock cycling team as they make their way into Victoria with a stop right here at *GMS*!



Upcoming Mini-Exploratory

One of the special features of middle schools in our school district is the implementation of Mini-Exploratory blocks. These are blocks of time designed to offer middle school students learning opportunities and experiences that they otherwise would not have. It is the intent of mini-exploratory blocks at *GMS* to be fun-filled, enriching, challenging, and experiential for all of our students. We would like to extend an invitation to parents of our learning community to consider offering some of their time to lead an exploratory session. In the past, we have had parents lead groups of students in ceramics, mosaics, crafts, cycling, athletics, and other activities that they have expertise and passion.

Although there is still a fair amount of time before our first round of mini-x, we wanted to let our community know about it! If you would like to offer your assistance with the first round of mini-exploratory blocks, Mr. Scigliano would like to hear from you! Send an e-mail to lscigliano@sd61.bc.ca and share your idea. Specifically, the first round of mini-exploratory blocks have been set for four Fridays - November 5th, November 12th, November 19th, and December 3rd, from 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM on each of those days. We wish to thank the GMS PAC for once again generously supporting the mini-exploratory concept financially, effectively eliminating the need to charge students for any of the activities offered. This is VERY much appreciated - Thank You!

- Monday, October 11th - Thanksgiving Day, school not in session
- Monday, October 18th - Early dismissal 1:45 PM -parent/teacher conferences
- Friday, October 22nd - Provincial Non-Instructional Day - school not in session
- Monday, October 25th - Early dismissal 1:45 PM -parent/teacher conferences
- Photo retakes this morning

See you in and around GMS!

Louie Scigliano, Principal

Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

Parent / Teacher Conferences

We have arranged for three afternoons of early dismissal of students to allow for parent / teacher conferences. This conference time is intended for parents to share information about their child with teaching staff, and for teachers to share initial observations of our students. The three dates for these are Monday, October 4th, 18th and 25th. All students will be dismissed at 1:45 PM on those days so that parents and teachers can meet. You should have received a Parent/Teacher conference sheet that we ask all parents to return to their child's teacher. We feel that it is important that all parents meet with the staff for these first conferences of the year.



Upcoming Events in October

- Wednesday, September 29th - Cops for Cancer Head shaves in the gym at 1 PM
- Friday, October 1st - Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock stops at GMS, 11:18 AM - parents welcome to join us for this most amazing event!
- Monday, October 4th - Early dismissal 1:45 PM - parent/teacher conferences
- Tuesday, October 5th - GMS PAC meeting in our library 7 PM; all parents welcome!

