



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

October 28, 2011

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.*

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. Last week, **GMS** took part in the BC Provincial Earthquake Shake Out Earthquake drill. This was an opportunity to review and practice our earthquake emergency plans. We hope that students and families have discussed earthquake preparedness for their homes. Later in the year, we will be conducting a Lockdown Drill. 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 part of our safety plans at **GMS**.

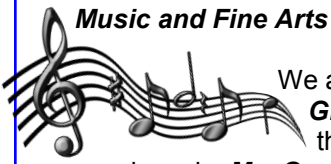


Another aspect of SAFETY for us is bicycle safety and parking lot safety. We have stressed the importance of bicycle safety with students – choosing SAFE riding routes to and from school, wearing a helmet, etc. We have also reminded students that all of the bicycles in our bike racks during the school day should be locked, and are out of bounds to all students. Students that have been riding skateboards to and from school are reminded that helmets are required, and there is to be no skateboarding on the school property. Regarding the drop off zone at Glanford Avenue, we wish to remind parents to stay clear of the handicapped drop off and pick up zone, utilized by a school bus. Pick up and drop off on Judah Street is also very busy, and we want to remind everyone that SAFETY is of huge importance – please do your part to be safe!

Athletics and Healthy Living at GMS

Athletics and healthy living are important for everyone, particularly for middle school students! We are committed to providing opportunities for kids to be involved at our school athletically and support our students with the Ministry of Education's requirement of DPA – Daily Physical Activity. The students at **GMS** were encouraged to be part of our intramural soccer program, which was a HUGE success. Lunch time games had students from all grades outside playing soccer – beginners and experienced players. The intramural league culminated with our Golden Boot Game – students versus staff. Thanks so much to **Mr. Brooker**, **Mr. Seaberg**, and the **GMS** staff for pitching in and helping us with Intramural soccer. Please see our school's web page for more details and photos. We have a drop in floor hockey group happening on a weekly basis, led by four of our wonderful grade 8 students – everyone is welcome to attend. We also have our students now playing **basketball**, with competitive teams, coached by **Mr. Brooker**, playing against other schools, and less competitive basketball starting as an intramural activity. Way to go, **GMS**!





Music and Fine Arts

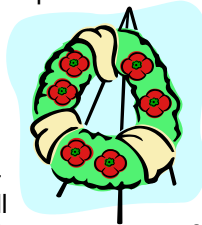
We are delighted to see so many **GMS** students in our band program this year. Our teacher for band and music, **Ms. Gerrits**, is delighted with the enthusiastic band members and their commitment to music. We are pleased to welcome **Ms. Tosczak** to our teaching team as well, helping us out part time on Mondays and Wednesdays. With Strings, we continue to be without a strings teacher at this time, and the school district continues to actively recruit qualified strings teachers. The first musical performance of the year will be at this year's Remembrance Day Assembly, planned for the morning of November 10th. 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**. On our school's web site, students and parents can access teacher web pages showing classroom homework assignments as well as special information from each class. Simply click on "STAFF" from our home web page to access the wonderful teacher web pages. 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!

Remembrance Day Assembly

Every year, schools in Canada organize a special assembly at Remembrance Day. This year, the **GMS** Remembrance Day assembly is planned for the morning of Thursday, November 10th, 2011. Last year, we invited **GMS** families to take part in the assembly by contributing photographs for the slide show/video that will be prepared for the event. If you have photos of relatives that have served, we would love for you to share those with us. Please forward these photos, along with the name of the family member that was a serviceperson, and the connection with any of the current **Glanford** students/staff. Further details of which service they were part of and when they served will be collated into a special tribute that we will prepare for the Remembrance Day assembly. Please forward this information to our grade 8 teacher, Mr. Derek Brooker, via e-mail: dbrooker@sd61.bc.ca Thank you in advance for your contributions; you are encouraged to take part in this opportunity for **GMS** to show our respect to **men and women that have served**



Upcoming Important Dates

- Tuesday, November 1st –**GMS** PAC meeting, 7 PM in school library, all parents welcome
- Thursday, November 10th – Remembrance Day Assembly, 11 AM, parents welcome
- Please note that the Curriculum Completion afternoon scheduled for Thursday, November 10th has been postponed
- Friday, November 11th, Remembrance Day, School not in Session
- Monday, November 14th – **GMPA** meeting 7 PM
- Friday, November 18th – **GMS** Retro Assembly, 1:30 PM – parents welcome to attend
- Monday, November 21st – Pro D Day – school not in session

See you in and around **GMS**!

Louie Scigliano, Principal
& Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal

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





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
Port Alberni	250-731-1315
Courtenay	250-331-8526
Campbell River	250-850-2124
Toll Free	1-800-663-7867