



Glanford Middle School Newsletter

September 29, 2011

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/TBA
Rhonda Leduc
Micha Seaberg
Paul Dailyde

Grade 7 Team
Dominic Butcher
Elaine Wooster
Andrew Shires
Cindy Lancaster
Jonathan Allsopp
Brenda Rushton

Grade 8 Team
Gary Beech
Derek Brooker
Cindy Kind
Vicky Seaberg/Katrina McPherson
Mark Gerhardt

Learning Support Bev McKillop, Jenny Ohl

Exploratory Team
Norm Pite – Wood Working
Glenda Vander Ende – Home Economics
Jenny Ohl – Visual Arts
John Weston/Dominic Butcher – Technology
Pam Gerrits – Music, Band
TBA- Strings

Librarian Mark Leischner
Counselor Diana Battie

Admin. Assistant Teri Craig
Account Clerk Jenny Reicker
School Assistant Ashley Atkinson

Support Staff
Carol Hall Sue Shewchuk
Lynn Cassidy Elaine Bayles
Cindy Pye Tina Jubinville
Sandi Eggleton Nina Johal
Sharon Brough Michelle Ray

Technology Assistant Barbara Wiggins

Custodian Fred Schmidt
Evening Custodian: Leanne and Shane
Vice-Principal Elaine Wooster
Principal Louie Scigliano

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 that have organized our first athletic offering of the year SOCCER. Both Mr. Seaberg and Mr. Brooker have been busy organizing intramural soccer teams and all students are encouraged to participate! A league has been created at all three grade levels. Soccer will culminate with a GOLDEN BOOT GAME between students and GMS staff, planned for October 18th. 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.



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.

Web Pages, Agenda Planning, School Planning and Professional Development

On Monday, September 19th, we held the first non-instructional day of the year. Many of the staff at **GMS** spent the morning learning about Teacher Web Pages. As a result, we are now close to having 100% of the teaching staff with their own web pages for students and families to refer to. This year we will be encouraging all students to refer to their teacher's web page for homework assignments and due dates. Of course, students may use traditional planners as they have in the past; however, this year they are optional. Some students will need planners on a daily basis, while many will be utilizing teacher web pages to keep themselves organized.

The two formal goals that we have for our school community this year are the following:

- 1) *To maximize student leadership and involvement in the highly successful culture established at GMS, and*
- 2) *To amplify student engagement, creativity, and critical thinking in each subject area through an increased use of technology in classroom instruction.* 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.

Earthquake Preparedness, Fire Drills, and Lockdown Drills

We have had our first fire drill as a school and are pleased to report that this was very well done by everyone involved. The Saanich Fire Department will be at GMS in October to conduct the second drill, which we will be ready for. Additionally, GMS is Officially registered for the Provincial Earthquake Shakeout Emergency Evacuation Drill happening on Thursday, October 20th. This is an opportunity to join thousands of other British Columbians in the annual earthquake preparedness and evacuation exercise. We have been reviewing our plans with the students, staff, and GMS PAC for earthquake preparedness and look forward to taking part in this provincially organized earthquake drill again this year. Thanks so much to the volunteers from the GMS PAC that have helped replenish the GMS earthquake safety kiosk and help update emergency backpacks found in our classrooms. Please be sure to have an emergency plan for your family in the event of an earthquake. For more information about the Earthquake Shakeout Drill on October 20th, please log on to <http://www.shakeoutbc.ca/>

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.

Our first mini-x blocks are now set. Specifically, the first round of mini-exploratory blocks have been set for four Fridays – October 7th, 14th, 28th, and November 4th, from 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM on each of those days. Please see the school web page for a detailed account of the special offerings to kids. If you would like to offer your assistance with future rounds 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. 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!

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 in their endeavor to raise awareness and funds for the campaign. Please join us at 9 AM on Tuesday, October 4th for the head shavings, and also on Friday, October 7th at 11:36 AM to cheer on the Tour de Rock cycling team as they make their way into Victoria with a stop right here at GMS!

Upcoming Special Event at GMS

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.

Newsletters - If you are receiving a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to receive future editions via e-mail, please send your e-mail address along with your child's name and advisory teacher's name to tcraig@sd61.bc.ca so you can be added to our e-mail distribution lists.

Upcoming Events in October

- Monday, October 3rd – Visiting author Kenneth Opel visits GMS
- Tuesday, October 4th – Cops for Cancer Head shaves in the gym at 9AM; GMS PAC meeting in the library at 7 PM; all parents welcome
- Wednesday, October 5th - Grade 6 immunizations this morning in the library
- Friday, October 7th – Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock stops at GMS, 11:36 AM – parents welcome to join us for this most amazing event! First mini-x begins this afternoon
- Monday, October 10th – Thanksgiving Day, school not in session
- Thursday, October 13th – *Me to We Day* for GMS student leaders in Vancouver
- Tuesday, October 18th – Canadian Musical Theatre Presentation, 9 AM
- Wednesday, October 19th – October Retro Assembly 9 AM; parents welcome
- Thursday, October 20th – Provincial Earthquake “Shake Out” Drill, 10:20 AM
- Friday, October 21st – Provincial Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
- Wednesday, October 26th – Photo Re-take day for those that require a re-take—please return your package if you are not satisfied with your photo on the photo re-take day

See you in and around GMS!
Louie Scigliano, Principal
Elaine Wooster, Vice-Principal



Northridge PAC Presents: Safe Kids For Parents (Abduction Prevention)

When: Wednesday Nov. 16, 2011 from 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Northridge School gym

Who: Parents and Guardians only (sorry, no students for this seminar)...please help spread the word... anyparent or guardian is welcome to attend (not just Northridge parents)

Cost: \$5.00/person

This seminar is designed to give parents and guardians the ability to “Keep your child informed, defensible, and safer”, by providing you with the information you need to know to keep your child safer. Darren and Beth Laur’s motto is to “Enlighten not Frighten”. This seminar is designed to provide the parents with the most “up to date” peer reviewed information available specific to abduction prevention. Topics covered in this seminar include:

- Current Stats and facts specific to abduction and sexual exploitation
- Who is the abductor
- How can we protect our children from stranger abduction
- Why teaching “stranger danger” does not work
- The “Lures” used to trick our children
- What about hands on self protection
- Walking to and from school
- What if my child does go missing
- Safety rules for the new millennium
- Parental responsibilities for child safety

Darren Laur is currently a staff sergeant with the Victoria Police department, with over 25 years of policing experience. In 1993, Darren and his wife, Beth, started their company, Personal Protections Systems Inc., which specializes in teaching safety awareness and self protection strategies. They have presented to thousands of organizations and have written several books, one of which has one a provincial award. This seminar promises to be an informative, entertaining and engaging. For more information on this Darren and Beth Laur please check out their website at <http://www.personalprotectionsystems.ca/>

LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES AND SPECIAL DAYS



Special days like birthdays, Easter and end-of-the-year parties are times of celebration with friends, family and food. However, there are students in our school with life-threatening food allergies and these students are especially at risk during these times. You can help to keep allergic students safe by:

- Celebrating with stickers, games or prizes instead of food
- Not sending or bringing peanut and nut-containing products to the school or classroom

Refer to your school’s policies and procedures around life-threatening food allergies for more information. 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/
- HealthLink BC File #100 Severe Food Allergies in Children: www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile100a.stm
- Anaphylaxis Canada www.anaphylaxis.ca/
- Your doctor
- Your pharmacist

Health Units:

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| Esquimalt | 250-519-5311 | Salt Spring Island | 250-538-4880 |
| Outer Gulf Islands | 250-539-3099 | Sooke | 250-642-5464 |
| Peninsula | 250-544-2400 | Victoria | 250-388-2200 |
| Saanich | 250-519-5100 | West Shore | 250-519-3490 |

