

**Dear Parents & Guardians,**



The end of November is here! Everyone is working hard at **GMS** and we are a few short weeks away from a well deserved Winter Break. Students have been actively engaged in their academic programs. Teachers and support staff are doing what they do best at **GMS** – providing a caring, engaging learning environment for our students to succeed. We are pleased to send home first term formal report cards today. Parents are asked to keep the insert, and sign/return the report card envelope to your child’s advisory teacher. **Please note: parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** for any parents wishing to meet with teachers. On Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> after 9 AM, please visit [gms.parentconferences.net](http://gms.parentconferences.net) to schedule an appointment with your child’s teacher. The online booking will close the following Monday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. Further instructions are included as an attachment with this email. Be sure to take some time to celebrate your child’s learning and to set goals in accordance to the formal report card that has come home.

### **Upcoming Important Dates at GMS**

- Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - on-line P/T interview scheduling opens
- Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - **GMS** PAC meeting at 7 PM - all parents welcome to attend
- Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Music Holiday Concerts, 9 AM & 7 PM; everyone welcome
- Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - 11:56 AM dismissal for P/T conferences
- Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Retro Assembly 1:30 PM, parents welcome
- Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – **GMS PAC sponsored Pancake Breakfast and Pajama Day** – always lots of fun! Please bring your own plate, cutlery, and food donation
- Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - Last day of classes prior to Winter Break
- Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – school reopens

### **GMS PAC Hosts Annual Pancake Breakfast and Pajama Day**

Every year, we are delighted to have the *Central Saanich Lions* visit **GMS** to prepare a WONDERFUL pancake breakfast. This year, the **GMS** PAC invited the Lions to come to our school on **Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their pajamas to school that day and are asked to bring their own plate and cutlery for the pancake breakfast, as we are trying to eliminate any unnecessary garbage. Be well planned, and have your plate and cutlery ready in advance. Plastic or non-breakable camping plates are best for this. Everyone is also encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to our **annual pancake breakfast and pajama day**. These food donations will be donated to a wonderful local charity, *The St. Vincent de Paul Society*.

### **The Music Program and Athletics @ GMS**

Everyone is invited to this year’s winter **music concert**. The concert will be performed on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM and again at 7 PM in our gym. Families are encouraged to come out to listen to the beautiful music of our young students! Thank you **Mr. Lienard, Mr. Barmby, and Mrs. Fisher** - our music leaders!

With **athletics**, we have had many, many students participating in recreational as well as competitive **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 and Bears!!

## Citizenship at GMS

The rate of change in our world with respect to technology is extraordinary. At **GMS**, we have continued to see an increase in the ownership of personal cell phones and hand held electronic devices. We continue to educate and set high expectations with our students with respect to **citizenship in general**, as well as **digital citizenship**. With the support of the **GMS PAC**, we were delighted to have “The White Hatter”, Darren Laur, make a presentation to our learning community on internet and digital safety.

With the privilege of having a cell phone or hand held device, we have the responsibility to using these devices appropriately. Students at **GMS** may have cell phones with them in our school and we have clear expectations for their use. Hand held devices can be used in class under the direction of a teacher or educational assistant. We are delighted to be using an iPad cart in our school, which is allowing for creativity and showing our learning in different ways, as well as multiple sets of chrome books. Certainly, the future will likely see more examples of technology in and out of our classrooms at **GMS**. We respectfully ask that parents **not** text or call their child during instructional time, as we have directed students to keep their phones off and secured in their locker during teaching time as well as break times. Thank you for your support.

## GMS Website

If you have not already done so, please visit our school’s amazing website, which you can easily locate by going to: <https://glanford.sd61.bc.ca/> Families 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 Rockin’ Rookies
- Teacher web pages showing homework as well as pertinent information to each class
- 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**



## Thank you GMS PAC and GMS Staff!

The reality of running a busy middle school has set in here at **GMS**. The school is buzzing with activity – academic, artistic, 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, athletics, the computer lab and library, band, 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 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 to support our school programs. Thanks also to all of our parents for continuing to support the work we do at **GMS**.

On behalf of the **GMS** staff, we wish all GMS families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy New Year, and wonderful winter break.

## **See you in and around GMS!**

Louie Scigliano, Principal & Sarah Khosla, Vice Principal