

**Dear Parents & Guardians,**



The end of October is here, 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 have shown respect to our code of conduct - an important cornerstone of our school.

### ***Upcoming Important Dates***

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - Curriculum completion #1; dismissal at 11:56 am for all students not required to stay for curriculum completion (letters have all come home this week to parents indicating details of CC Day #1;

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - **GMS** PAC meeting at 7 pm in the library – all parents welcome to attend

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>- Photo Retake Day

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day Assembly, 9 AM, parents and grandparents welcome. Students that are part of any cadets, guides, or scouts are encouraged to be in uniform. All parents and grandparents of the **GMS** learning community are encouraged to attend

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – School Chosen Non-Instructional Day at Glanford, school not in session

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> -School Not in Session - Remembrance Day Stat

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and also December 6<sup>th</sup> – Mini-X afternoons

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Non-Instructional Day, students not in session

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – First term formal report cards come home

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 where 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 learning opportunities and experiences.

### ***Safety at GMS***

Another one of our priorities at **GMS** 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. During the past few weeks, **GMS** has had the Saanich Fire Department here to assist us with a fire drill and we have also taken part in the BC Provincial Earthquake ShakeOut Earthquake drill.

The earthquake drill was an opportunity to review and practice our earthquake emergency plans. We hope that students and families have discussed earthquake preparedness for their homes. We have also conducted 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 keep these drills 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. 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 (parents are reminded to please not park in the Judah Street Parking lot as it is reserved for staff), and we want to remind everyone that SAFETY is of huge importance – please do your part to be safe! Please be aware that Saanich Municipality plans a major road renovation on Glanford Avenue, commencing in November.

### ***Fall Sports***

**GMS** has had high student participation rates in ultimate Frisbee, touch rugby, as well as in Cross Country! Great job athletes! The students at **GMS** were also encouraged to be part of our intramural athletic program, which is a great way to get involved. Lunch time games have students from all grades playing basketball – beginners and experienced players. We also have our students playing **basketball**, with competitive teams playing against other schools. Thanks to **Mr. Brooker** for taking the lead with senior girls' basketball and **Mrs. Khosla** working with junior girls basketball players. We have parents **Mr. Don Franklin and Jason Leslie** coaching our senior basketball team, **Mr. Dwyer** coaching our second senior boys basketball team, and **Mr. Robin Hutchinson** coaching our junior boys team. Way to go, **GMS**! Thanks so much to our student scorekeepers as well! Great job!



### ***Technology @ Glanford Middle School***

Under the leadership of **Mr. Brooker** and **Mr. Weston**, 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: <https://glanford.sd61.bc.ca/> Take a moment to visit the current **GMS** web page – there is so much to see about the day to day activities at **GMS** - you will enjoy it!

### ***Music and Fine Arts***



We are delighted to see so many **GMS** students in our band, choir, and strings programs this year. Our teachers in our music programs, **Mrs. Kelly and Ms. Fisher**, are delighted with the enthusiastic students and their commitment to music. The grade 8s enjoyed a Spooktacular Halloween musical event, which was lots of fun! We look forward to a musical performance at this year's Remembrance Day Assembly, planned for 9AM the morning of November 7<sup>th</sup>. This performance will include band, strings, and choir. The fine arts are one of the pillars of Glanford Middle School, and we are proud of all of our music students!



See you in and around **GMS** !

***Louie Scigliano, Principal & Sarah Khosla, Vice-Principal***