Personally I love the warmer weather however I am feeling a bit relieved that it has cooled down slightly, at least for a little while. Our Library being open at lunch time has provided a cool area for students to gather during lunch breaks and I would like to thank the volunteers who assist with supervision at these times. We would like to have a collection of drawing materials for Library lunch time use. It has been mentioned to me that many students have left-over pencils from last year, so before we go out and purchase new pencils, if any families have any decent left-overs please send them in and we will put them to good use.

SAFETY – TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL
Last week I was contacted by a nearby resident and also observed an incident at our crossing regarding one of our younger students who, in her enthusiasm, went to cross the road without waiting for Andrew (Crossing Supervisor). Fortunately Andrew was able to stop the student before any harm could occur. Could all families please remind students of the appropriate use of our crossing? This also includes dismounting from bikes and scooters and walking them across.

Whilst on the topic of scooter and bike riding, I have had mentioned that some of our student bike riders are not demonstrating appropriate etiquette whilst riding to school. I have placed information on our website to assist students in ensuring they are making positive choices regarding their riding behaviour. The main message is that your bike/scooter is a vehicle and pedestrians have right of way.

CAR PARKING
A related issue - just to clarify the situation on Glen Iris Rd, please read the information included with this newsletter “Car Parking at Glen Iris Primary School”. Traffic has been very busy since the start of the year and it is important that we all understand the parking restrictions at the front of the school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION
Yesterday ballot papers were sent home to all families for our School Council Election. Please vote and return your papers before Tuesday 26 February. The Ballot closes at 4pm on that day. I would like to thank all nominated parties for their willingness to participate in this important school role.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
All volunteers who work in our school with our children must have Working with Children Checks as indicated in the policy approved by School Council late last year. The policy and further information is located on our website. We have had some embarrassing situations of parents turning up without these checks and unfortunately being unable to partake in rostered classroom or playground activities.

STAFFING
A warm welcome to a new Teacher Support Staff member: Ms Catriona Botterill into the Grade 5/6 area.
A.E.U.
We continue to move through a challenging time with the AEU Industrial action. As part of the ban Union Members are being asked to work a 38 hour week which as you can imagine is a challenge in itself. Particularly with the Foundation BBQ, Information nights, Meet the Teacher Nights on top of the expected meeting attendance. This has had in many instances an impact on school’s camping program. At our latest sub branch meeting it was recommended that camps continue throughout the year with as much support provided to teachers who are involved in the organising and attendance. We encourage parents to connect to the AEU and DEECD website for further information. (links both available on our website).

Regards,
Carolyn Macaulay,
Acting Principal

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The closing date for applications is 28 February 2013.
For more information go to the Notices tab on the School’s website and click on EMA.
STUDENT ILLNESSES AND ACCIDENTS
At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or sustains an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details. Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. DEECD does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Is other Insurance available? Yes.
There are commercial providers of insurance for students and they can be found through the Yellow Pages, the Internet or your Insurance Broker.

Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property
On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

What’s on in Art…
Replicas of the well-loved Glen Iris family chooks, Salt and Pepper, came to life in 2012 as a whole school project. Made from cane and papier-mâché, they were decorated with a variety of textiles, papers and feathers. Very excitingly, Salt and Pepper have now been invited as special guests in the Children’s Gallery at Zart Art in Term Two! There will be a special opening evening for all those exhibiting – date to be advised.

The students have just completed their self-portraits using a variety of different media. Look out for them in and around the school!

We will have many exciting projects to embark on this year. I’d love to hear from any interested parents (with a touch of creativity) to assist in bringing it all together. Please feel free to call into the Art Room.

Michele Freeland-Small
(Visual Arts Coordinator)

NEEDED - VOLUNTEERS FOR CRE
CRE (Christian Religious Education) at GIPS begins in early March.
This year we are a number of teachers short and welcome hearing from new parents who might be interested in helping out.
For enquiries, please contact Judy Savige, CRE Team Leader (0407 889 885).

JEWSH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Any families within the School Community interested in Jewish Religious Education at GIPS are welcome to leave their details at the School Office.

TODAY’S NOTICES
• Class Contact Form (all, cream, reply slip)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Now in a new format, last page of the Newsletter.
Greetings to each of you from the Parents’ Association:

Hope you are all doing well and the school routines are now well and truly established!

Be sure to mark Thursday 7 March in your calendars. The Parents Association along with the GIPS School Council will be sponsoring a Wine and Cheese Night!

The night will start at 7:30pm and conclude at 9:00pm.

The following is what we have planned for the night:

1. A presentation on the 4-year GIPS Strategy showcasing a short video from the Year 5/6 SALT teams.
2. Brief introduction to the School Council and Parents’ Association - what we do, and who we are.
3. A chance to meet and greet other GIPS families.

Jack Risos (President, School Council), Carolyn Macaulay and I have been working together on behalf of our teams in anticipation of this special event. We are very excited about the night and we are hoping that you can all join us!

For more information, keep an eye out for the notices that will be coming out shortly in your child/ren's notice folders. Feel free to contact the school office if you would like to find out more about the night and/or how you can contribute.

The next Parents’ Association Meeting will be held on Monday 4 March at a time to be confirmed in the Staffroom.

Sene-Li Wong

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**FIRST AID NEWS AND REMINDERS**

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Wells Family at Friends Pharmacy for their generous and kind donation of medical supplies to our First Aid room. Your act of generosity is greatly appreciated by the staff and students at Glen Iris. We would also like to thank the Wells family for looking after our chickens, Salt and Pepper, throughout the holidays. They have returned to school with smiles on their faces and they are already laying eggs for us!

Many thanks to the Giannopoulos family for their kind donation of a mattress for the First Aid room.

Reminder: If your child has an action plan for either anaphylaxis, allergic reaction, asthma or any other condition, it is a necessity for them to provide their own medication to the school. Please remember to provide the school with medications such as Ventolin and spacers, Zyrtec, Claratyne and any other medications your child may require throughout the year.

Brodee Goldman and Bianca Deckert,
First Aid Coordinators

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**ASHBURTON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

Don’t miss the Glen Iris Combined Rock Band performance under the expert guidance of our very own ROCK GURU Mr Danniel Smith

@ 11.30am Sunday 24 February.

The band comprises students from GIPS, Ashburton & Solway Primary Schools.

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**2013 TERM DATES**

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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>15 April to 28 June</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>15 July to 20 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>7 October to 20 December</td>
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**2014 TERM DATES**

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<tr>
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<td>14 July to 19 September</td>
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<td>6 October to 19 December</td>
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Although parking and traffic flow around schools is constantly a matter of concern, recently there seems to have been more difficulty than usual near our school. I am hoping that by setting out the school’s expectations and arrangements related to parking, we can avoid further accidents, arguments and inconvenience for us all.

The parking regulations are clearly signed in the streets surrounding the school. These signs indicate the length and availability of parking. These include:

**Disabled Parking:** 2 spaces near the front of the school. These spaces are only available for cars displaying a “Disabled Parking” sticker. Please be aware that these spaces are urgently required by some of our school families every day.

**No Parking Zones:** (8 – 9.30AM and 3.00 – 4.00PM) 3 areas immediately north of the school crossing in Glen Iris Road (west side of road). You are not allowed to park in these areas during the times indicated. These areas are used as our drop off / pick up zones. Drivers cannot leave their cars during these times. If you are picking up your child/children at the end of the day and he/she/they are not waiting, please move on and return later.

**Parking Zones:**
- **5 MINUTE (8.30-9.15am and 3.15-4pm)** Green signs. The 5 min zone is south of the School Crossing & the two 10 min zones are at the north end of the school site, both on the west side of Glen Iris Rd. You may park your car in these zones but must observe the time restrictions during these hours.
- **10 MINUTE (8.00-9.30am and 2.30-4.00pm)**

**Parking on the East Side of Glen Iris Rd:** There are No Standing signs near the School Crossing. Otherwise respect our neighbours and do not park over or too close to driveways. Look out for any parking lines on the road way. It is illegal to block a driveway and only common sense not to block the vision of cars entering or leaving their driveways.

- **Be aware that By Laws Officers regularly patrol our traffic zone.**

**Public Parking:** Off street parking is available behind the High Street shopping strip, between the shops and the apartment block.

**Parking is not permitted:**
- In the Church / Kinder car park, unless you are dropping off or collecting a kinder child.
- In the staff car park area at the school.

**Alternatives to parking chaos:**
- Consider parking a short distance from school and walking a couple of blocks.
- Compare the time taken circling the block with the time taken to walk the short distance.
- Drop off a couple of minutes earlier than usual.
- Try to remain patient and good humoured. Everyone is busy and in a hurry.

**Community Support:**
It is everyone’s job to make sure we provide a safe environment for the students at our school. We also want to preserve the excellent relationship that exists with our neighbours at Glen Iris Road Uniting Church and Kindergarten. 

*It is not the role of teachers and parents to patrol and police the parking behaviour of others in our school community.*

If we each take responsibility for our own behaviour, we are best able to ensure the children’s safety when coming to and from school.

*Carolyn Macaulay - Acting Principal*
For Sale
7 piece Mapex drum kit (preloved by ex-GIPS student) very good condition $500 (negotiable)
Contact Rob 0411060788
Many thanks