Dear Parents,

During the past week, the children have arrived at school on some truly frosty, winter mornings leading into lovely, sunny afternoons for this time of year. Luckily, the school is warm and cozy, although some children do not seem to feel the cold as they race around in shorts and tee shirts. Brrrrrrr!

**Student Mid-Year Reports**

Tomorrow, the children will receive their mid-year written reports from teachers. As a parent, I appreciate how much many will anticipate this indication of the progress their children have made over the past six months. There are a couple of things to remember when reading the reports this time. Firstly, the format and general content in the reports is set by the Federal Government and is consistent in all government schools. Secondly, on this occasion, we have moved into the National Curriculum known as AusVELS. Inevitably, there are some changes when a system or process is altered. Some features on the reports, for instance the markings indicating where a child was graded this time last year, do not appear in the AusVELS subjects this semester. The AusVELS subjects at this stage of implementation are English, Maths, Science and History. Parents may notice a variation in rating as the new curriculum is based on a different scale. An information page will be included with reports to further outline the new report structure. Yesterday, a group of approximately 30 parents attended a session conducted by our Assessment and Reporting Coordinators, Barb Maclarn and Emily Burgess, where the transition to AusVELS was discussed and questions answered.

I also ask that parents bear in mind the many hours of work teachers have put into our reporting process. Teachers do not make their judgements or comments without significant evidence and consideration. After reading all the reports, Robyn Floyd and I are sure every family will recognise the growth and achievements made by the children. In my family, we talk about learning as being a marathon rather than a sprint. It takes sustained effort, preparation and timing with the outcome taking quite some time to reach. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's reports, please make a time to talk with the teacher. Formal interviews will be held in Week 4 of Term 3.

**Celebration Unit - Friendship Day Grade 3**

This term, our Grade 3 classes have been learning about Celebrations in different cultures and countries. They have been working on a task to plan their own celebration - Friendship Day. In teams, the children planned and presented their ideas and then voted for the ideas they thought would best represent a celebration of friendship. Last Friday, I was invited to attend and help judge the final presentations. The range of ideas was amazing and the efforts in presentations were impressive: PowerPoint, video, posters. It was very hard to choose and a very close vote. Finally, Preston and Finn were deemed the successful team and they will work with the teachers to conduct "Friendship Day" tomorrow. Well done to all our Grade 3s for their excellent ideas and presentations.
Day on the Diggings 5/6
In the Grade 5/6 classes, the students have been participating in a history unit on The Gold Rush. Throughout the term, the children have researched various aspects of life on the gold fields and the events of the times. They enjoyed an excursion to Sovereign Hill as part of their learning. Yesterday, the grades re-enacted life on the goldfields here at GIPS with "A Day on the Diggings". The students chose a character who would have lived in these times and portrayed that person: miners, troopers, shopkeepers, bushrangers. The children also had a supply of GIPS dollars to spend in various businesses on the diggings and needed to beware of the bushrangers! Next time you visit the office, look out for the life-sized model of bushranger, Captain Moonlight, constructed by Daniel O, Ben A, Tom H and Ben F (5/6S). You will be impressed.

Foundation 2014
Soon it will be time to start making plans for our school for next year. To assist with planning, families intending to enrol a child to commence Foundation or at other grade levels at Glen Iris Primary School for 2014 are asked to complete an enrolment form and forward it with the relevant documents to the School Office. Enrolment forms are available from the website or at the Office. Parents who wish to discuss their child's school commencement are welcome to make an appointment to meet with me. If you have neighbours or friends wishing to enrol children next year, please bring this to their attention. Boroondara schools request enrolments be received by 31 August 2013.

Yours Sincerely
Meredith Carracher

End of Term Casual Clothes Day
On Friday 28 June we will be holding a Jeans for Genes Day. We will be raising money for the Children's Medical Research Institute that looks into finding cures for genetic diseases.

Please bring a gold coin donation and wear jeans (or casual clothes) this Friday.
**VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

Well done to all students who are participating in the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge this year. If you have not already logged on to the website, please do so immediately. That way, if any login details are incorrect, I can follow up on it quickly. Also, remember to check that the book you are planning on reading is on the list, before beginning the book. The challenge will end on **Friday 30 August** for all GIPS students. This will allow us to ‘verify’ books prior to the official closing date for the challenge. Any information entered by families after this date will not be verified and therefore, will not count in the student’s official tally. No books will be verified before this date, even if your child has fulfilled the challenge requirements.

Happy reading!

Kate Van der Jagt

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**SPORT UNIFORMS**

We apologise for the delay in the delivery of the sport uniforms that were ordered at the end of Term 1. These uniforms should be arriving this week, however, they will not be ready for distribution until the beginning of Term 3. A note will be sent home next term outlining how to collect your uniform when it is ready for distribution. If you have any queries please direct them to Mr Cavell.

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**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 new applications is **2 August 2013**. For more information go to the Notices tab on the School’s website and click on EMA.

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**PARENTS’ ASSOC’N NEWS**

Hello GIPS Families,

Can you believe it is now June! It has been so cold but thank goodness for the sunny days. In a few days time it will be the end of the financial year and of course, the school holidays. Our teachers need a break from our little ones to refresh and recharge for the new term. They have done such a great job during this long 2nd term, wouldn’t you agree? Now it is time for us to *cherish* them 24x7 for the next 2 weeks.

Hope your holidays plans are chugging along nicely. For those who are staying here to enjoy the cold winter, there is heaps to do in and around Melbourne. Make sure you get a copy of your Entertainment Book before the holidays as they will run out soon. There are so many activities to choose from and this year’s Entertainment Book is full of vouchers and nearly 2 inches thick!

Well, keep safe this holidays. Hope that you will have a refreshing time with your children. They grow so quickly so enjoy every moment.

Cheers, Sene-Li - President Parents’ Association

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**TWILIGHT MARKET**

Preparations for our Twilight Market are well underway and there are a few things that you can do to help over the school holidays:

- If cleaning up the play room is on the agenda for the school holidays please keep the Twilight Market’s Second Hand Toy Stall in mind. Any toys in good condition, with no broken or missing parts will gratefully be accepted.
- If your kids eat like mine, you will probably go through lots of jars over the break - why not put them aside for the Market! We are seeking glass jars with lids that seal to reuse for Jams & Preserves. These should be in good clean condition but no need to sterilise, we will do that before use.
- Finally, if you are lucky enough to holiday somewhere beautiful, consider asking for an accommodation voucher to be donated for the Silent Auction. It will be a good chance to promote to Glen Iris families and we will include promotional material at the Auction and recognise sponsors on the GIPS web page. At the beginning of Term 3 boxes will be left outside the office for your toy donations and jars. Have a happy and safe break.

Kind Regards

Rachael Thomson - Main Event Coordinator
The Victorian State Schools Spectacular is one of the largest performing arts events in Australia. It is a professionally staged production performed annually to an audience of over 10,000 people.

The Spectacular includes a cast of almost 3,000 Victorian government school students, working towards a common goal in a collaborative, competition-free environment. Its dual aim is to provide an invaluable performing arts opportunity to Victoria’s government school students and to showcase the enormous talent that exists in our schools. This all comes together in a 2-3 hour scripted show that celebrates a diversity of performance mediums, including choir, dance, vocal, drama, and orchestra.

Students who participate in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular are provided with a unique opportunity to work with internationally renowned industry professionals across all disciplines, as well as the amazing experience of performing live in front of thousands of people.

The 2013 Victorian State Schools Spectacular will be on Saturday 27th July at Hisense Arena.

Participants needed: FREE study for overweight young people looking for help.

Murdoch Children’s Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital is running a randomised clinical trial of an online weight management program for overweight adolescents. More information about this trial can be found on today’s Community Noticeboard pages.

Woolworths Earn & Learn

A big thank-you to Jean Price (grandmother of Amy) for helping with all of the Earn & Learn stickers that needed attaching to the sheets. Also thank-you to all members of the school community who supported this program.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Now in a new format, you will find the new expanded Community Noticeboard under the News tab.