Dear Parents,

It has been great to meet up with so many Glen Iris families after the long, holiday break and to see the children so quickly settled in the new classes. I hope everyone has enjoyed the vacation and is feeling rested and ready for the busy year ahead. We have been very pleased to welcome 59 new children in Preps and through the school and 8 new and returning staff members to our school. I know our friendly community will make sure they feel welcome.

Introducing……..
The following people have joined or re-joined our staff this year:

- Miss Alex Schifter (2S) - Alex has completed a Masters of Teaching degree and recently returned from a teaching experience in India.
- Mrs Rebecca Givogue (3G) – Last year, Rebecca taught at Narre Warren South P – 12 College
- Mrs Carrie Butler (4B) – Carrie has worked in educational settings for the past five years.
- Ms. Lucy Gargano (4G) – Lucy is returning from leave during which time she has worked in various schools and teaching roles. Lucy is a long-time member of the GIPS staff.
- Mrs Sarah Hunting (4TH) – Sarah is returning part time from Family Leave.
- Mrs Ronna Harris (5/6RH) – Ronna has joined us from Western Heights College where she was the Year 7, 8 and 9 Learning Community Leader.
- Miss Lauren Crowley (Performing Arts) – Lauren is sharing the Performing Arts role with Kate Van der Jagt in Term 1.
- Miss Chloe Laborde (French Assistant) – Chloe is working as a shared French Assistant with Glen Iris and Camberwell High Schools in a one year program sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Congratulations Bruce!
Congratulations to Bruce Nation, our wonderful coordinator of the Kids’ Hope program at Glen Iris Primary School. As a result of Bruce’s volunteer work at GIPS and with other community groups, he has been named the Boroondara Volunteer of the Year in the recent Australia Day Awards. Our school has certainly benefited from Bruce’s inspiration, motivation and dedication. Thank you Bruce!

Parent Involvement in School Council
I would like to acknowledge the dedicated and valuable contribution made to the School Council in recent years by our retiring councillors: Peter Holmes - 6 years as Communications Convenor; Meredith Dahlsen - 3 years as Treasurer; Ilias Mastoris - 2 years as Buildings and Environment Convenor; Ivan Mellado – 4 years on the Council Executive. I thank these parents for the time, effort and expertise they have shared so willingly with our Council.

Many parents enjoy participating in their children’s school life and contributing to our school community. In fact, research suggests that parental involvement plays a significant part in children’s success at school. One way you can consider being involved in school life is by becoming part of our School Council. This group meets twice each month and guides policy and budgetary decision making in the school. Whilst it is an important part of school operations, School Council members do not need any special expertise, experience or skills. The most important thing is that you want to contribute to continually improving learning opportunities for all children at Glen Iris.

A School Council election is conducted each year. Nominations are currently being taken for parent and teacher vacancies on our School Council for 2014 / 2015. We are very keen to welcome new members to the Council as some councillors are retiring after many years’
service. There are 4 parent positions to be filled. Each position is for a 2 year term. Nomination forms are available from tomorrow, Friday 7 February at the Office and nominations close on Friday 14 February at 4pm. Casual vacancies are filled as they arise.

Can you help?
It is now important to fill these roles on School Council. If you are interested in filling a leadership position (Treasurer, Subcommittee Convenor) or being a general member of School Council, I would be very pleased to discuss the role with you further.

New Assembly Times:
Last Friday afternoon, we held the first whole school assembly for the year in our new time slot and timetable. This year, we are trialling fortnightly assemblies on Friday afternoons at 2:50pm. We believe this will make the optimum use of student learning time and enable us to accommodate some new whole school student wellbeing programs this year. We hope parents will continue to join us for assemblies each Friday in the ODD weeks. Assemblies will be noted on the website if you are unsure of the correct day.

Student Wellbeing Programs:
Following a year of extensive research and training by teachers, a suite of new and improved student wellbeing programs will be offered in 2014. Our aim is to support students in the school environment to build effective peer relationships and social competencies to enable them to live happy and productive lives now and in the future. These programs are underpinned by the new school values developed across the school community in 2013 and will all be linked to the Federal Government framework, KidsMatter. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing initiative that has been adopted by nearly 1500 Australian primary schools and has been found to improve the mental health and wellbeing of students; the quality of school work and the capacity of schools and families to support children in the personal development. Our new and improved programs include:

- **GALAXY:** GALAXY groups will continue to operate throughout the school each term. One GALAXY session will be conducted to highlight a particular school value and other sessions will support whole school events such as sporting occasions, French Day etc.

- **Student Action Leadership Teams (SALT):** SALT will continue to develop leadership skills and opportunities for students in Grade 5/6 in a program offered weekly. To teach the skills required for effective personal, group or school wide leadership, a focused program designed by Michael Grose will be delivered in Term 1. Following this, students will nominate for and be placed in leadership teams to put their improved skills into action. SALT teams will comprise fewer students; have a designated staff member to facilitate their activities and meet weekly rather than every third week which was the case in the past.

**Bounce Back:** Bounce Back is a program aimed at building resilience in our students. It is widely acknowledged that resilience is a critical attribute to enable children to reach their academic, social and personal potential. Classes will work with a cross-age buddy class in a peer tutoring approach. For instance, a Grade 1 class will work in conjunction with a Grade 2 class. Teachers will deliver a series of lessons building resilience and self-esteem on a fortnightly basis. This program has been designed by leading Australian authority, Dr Helen McGrath.

Friendly Reminders:
- The policy at GIPS states that only children above Grade 4 may ride bikes to school without adult supervision. Shortly, we will review this policy. If parents feel this restriction is inappropriate, please share your views during the review. Until there is a change in policy by School Council, the staff will continue to follow the current policy.
- Our new School sports uniform, adopted in 2013, is an optional garment for sporting competitions and physical education lessons. It is not regular school wear and should not be worn on other occasions. The sports uniform will soon be available from PSW both in our school based store and the retail outlet in Mt Waverley.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]

GET THE LATEST SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS ON YOUR PHONE

**DOWNLOAD THE FREE KONNECTIVE MOBILE APP**

For iPhone users - get Konnective from the AppStore
- Download the App and click Register to create your account

For Android users - get Konnective from the Google Play Store.
- Download the App and click Register to create your account

For other smartphone devices or if you don’t have a smartphone, use our website version.

Once you have registered and logged in, go to My Connections to connect to the relevant school feeds.
The Parents' Association is pleased to welcome all families to, or back to, our wonderful school for yet another year of enrichment for our children.

All parents are invited to our first Parents' Association meeting which will be held on Monday, 10th February at 9:15am (after morning drop-offs) in the Staff Room (located in the main administration building). This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and also to learn more about our plans for the year.

Our next event is scheduled for Sunday, 23rd February. This is the ever-popular "Ashburton Festival" which takes place on High Street/Ashburton Village, from 10am to 4pm. We will be hosting a "popcorn & cold drinks" stall on the day and we welcome the assistance of volunteers who would like to help out, either on the day or in preparing for the event. Please contact the GIPS’ office if you are interested in participating.

For more information on the Parents' Association - including an overview of all of our scheduled events for the 2014 school year - please refer to the Parents section of the school website. We hope that this information will be useful to all parents, particularly in giving you an early view of what to expect over the course of the year.

On behalf of all members of the Parents' Association, we hope that you and your children have a fantastic year and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Regards,
Alex Goldhagen - President

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

1. Your child must be under the age of sixteen; and
2. Your child must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on **28 February 2014 for the first instalment** and **1 August 2014 for the second instalment**; and
3. You must on 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1st August 2014, for the second instalment: be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health care card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) HOLDER; or be a foster parent.
4. Submit your application to the school by the due date: **28 February 2014 for the first instalment**, **1 August 2014 for the second instalment**.
5. *Please note: you only need to make a second application in August if your child changes schools between March and August.*

EMA application forms are available from the school office or from our website.
LEAVING THE SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If you need to take your child from a classroom during school hours:

- Please fill in the Leave Pass Book at the Office.
- Hand the white slip to the teacher when you collect your child.

LUNCHTIME LIBRARY DUTY

Welcome back! We are seeking parent helpers to assist in the library at lunchtimes to oversee board games and quiet reading in the library for those children seeking alternative play space.

A notice has been sent home this week for Term 1, 2014.

Please try to find a spare lunchtime, as your children would love to see you.

*Remember you will need a current Working With Children Check to participate.*

Thank you, Justine Moore - GIPS PA

Justine3146@gmail.com

FAMILY DETAILS

Have any of your family details changed recently? Can’t remember? Don’t worry we all have those moments. Call in to the School Office or give us a ring if you would like to check the information we have on file. If you have changed address, phone numbers, emergency contact details and email addresses - ring, call in to the Office or send a note requesting a “Change of Student Information” form be sent home with your child.

*It is very important to keep your details up-to-date.*

Kaye, Liz, Kathy and Rose
GIPS Office Staff

HOURS OF SUPERVISION

Please note that students are supervised in the yard before school from 8.45am and after school until 3.45pm.

GLEN IRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

8.30am until 4.30pm

SUNSMART

GIPS has a policy of “NO HAT, NO PLAY” from 1 September to 1 May.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL

Just a quick reminder that Glen Iris Primary School is a Nut Aware School and, as such, it is important that parents do not allow their children to bring any product to school that contains nuts of any type. Naturally this includes peanut butter, Nutella, nut health bars and cakes/biscuits that contain nuts. Please inform class teachers of all the ingredients of any food sent to school to share on special occasions. We appreciate your diligence in this matter.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Just a reminder to all to keep checking our community noticeboard on our website. There is new information every fortnight that many of you may be interested in.
PRELOVED BOARD AND BOXED GAMES FOR THE LIBRARY

The library games nook has been a great hit with the children this year and now the school’s board and boxed games are looking a bit tired. If Santa delivered any shiny new games and your preloved, outgrown and complete game sets are looking for a new home, please consider donating them to the school library. Donations can be left at the school office in the box provided. Thank you for your support throughout last year!

Friends of the Library

BOWEN STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE
COURSES AND ACTIVITIES - 2014

You can now download our course brochure from the website www.bowenstreet.org.au

Something for everyone!

January – June courses 2014
@ Bowen Street Community Centre, Camberwell

Technology & Work Skills | Creative Pursuits | Health & Wellbeing | Languages | Children & Teen Activities | General Interests
2014 TERM DATES

Term 1  28 January to 4 April
Term 2  22 April to 27 June
Term 3  14 July to 19 September
Term 4  6 October to 19 December

2015 TERM DATES

Term 1  28 January to 27 March
Term 2  13 April to 26 June
Term 3  13 July to 18 September
Term 4  5 October to 18 December

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

It’s that time of year when people have been having a huge cleanout of cupboards and as a result we have a lot of fantastic 2nd hand uniform. Come and see us. We are open every Friday from 3.15 to 3.45pm. Everything is $5. We also have school bags in great condition—also $5 each. Feel free to donate any school uniforms your kids have outgrown but only if it’s in useable condition.

KIM GREEN & KATRINA HRELIJA

WANTED

Any pens, pencils, textas, exercise books etc. in good condition to be sent to overseas charities. If you have any of these stationery items to donate please drop them in at the office. Thankyou.

SCHOOL BANKING

- School Banking has already started. Remember bank books need to be brought to school on Mondays and processing of books occurs at 8.45am on Tuesday morning.

- Prep parents interested in School Banking with the Commonwealth Bank can collect an application kit from the School Office.

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Bedtime Storytime

Monday 10 February at 6:30pm
Ashburton Library
154 High Street
Ph: 9278 4666
The whole family is welcome!
Wear your pyjamas and bring your favourite cuddly friend.

Visit:
BOROONDARA SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL

AT BOROONDARA FARMERS MARKET

SAT 15 FEB 2014

WHERE: Boroondara Farmers Market,
Patterson Reserve, Auburn Road, Hawthorn East
WHEN: Saturday 15 February 2014
TIME: 8am to 1pm ENTRY: Gold coin donation

For more information visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sustainable-living-festival or phone 9278 4347