From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Effective Teaching of Writing Program
As I move around the school, it is clear to see the enthusiasm of both children and teachers in our new approach to teaching writing at Glen Iris. Children in every grade have begun working on their "Writer's Notebook" developing a "Things I Love" page to inspire them and working like real authors. Children have many more opportunities to write about subjects that they choose and in the style they choose. Ask your children if they have had a turn in the "Author's Chair" yet.

In 2014, the staff are focussing their professional learning on the Effective Teaching of Writing throughout the school. The aims of this program are:
- To ensure we deliver a consistent and sequential writing program throughout the school;
- To ensure best practice teaching strategies are being fully utilised, and,
- To provide the children with greater student voice over their writing pieces.

Before the children began school this year, teachers participated in a full day's training in the delivery of an effective classroom writing program led by our Coach, Lisa Keskinen. Lisa has worked with teachers around the world and across Melbourne sharing her expertise and advice. Lisa will continue to work with the staff throughout the year giving demonstration lessons, providing feedback to teachers on the classroom practice she observes, participating in team planning and delivering further training workshops. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the program with you later in the year.

Early arrivals and Late to School - Not Too Early, Not Too Late - Just Right!
The teachers and I have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving in the school grounds very early. The grounds are unsupervised until 8:45am and quite deserted until almost that time. Of course, most teachers are at school preparing for the day, however, they would be unaware if a child was injured or in need of assistance. The school provides Before School Care for families who need to drop the children at school early. I have asked the teachers to bring children into the office foyer if they notice children at school when the playground is quite empty. This is for safety and is not a punishment. The children will go outside again once more children have arrived, usually after 8:30am.

We may seem difficult to please given the paragraph above about early arrivals at school, however, regular late arrivals cause an interruption to the learning programs which commence promptly at 9:00am. Teachers mark the roll for the morning at this time and children arriving after the roll has been marked will be asked to sign in at the office. Of course, this causes further delay. We understand that everyone, including ourselves, are late sometimes for unavoidable reasons, but punctuality is a habit that children should develop with our assistance. We are ensuring children playing in the grounds stop their games and come in when the first bell rings at 8:55am. It would help teachers if families could ensure their children are at school and prepared for learning by 9:00am.

School Gates
Our Grade 4 Gate Monitors are doing a great job ensuring the playground entrances are closed shortly after 9:00am. If you visit the school during the day, could you please assist us by closing the gates behind you. The gates are then opened again prior to the end of the school day. This is just another part of our Student Safety strategy at Glen Iris.

Staff in the playground
Just a reminder that all our teachers - classroom, specialists and leaders - are available to chat with you.
between 3:30pm and 3:45pm each day in the playground. I know the teachers find this a valuable way to keep in touch with the happenings in our community and we hope you find it useful to be able to check in with the teachers - or just stop for a quick chat - from time to time. One of our Prep parents commented to me that she was very pleased to see a member of the Leadership Team outside the school each afternoon and the teachers available in the playground.

Bike Riding Policy
I know many families are eager to get an update on the review of the Bike Riding Policy. After our discussion at School Council, it has been determined that the following guideline will be added to our policy:

GIPS students and families are encouraged to heed the advice of VicRoads in relation to children travelling to or from school by bicycle namely:

“VicRoads recommends that children under the age of twelve years ride under adult supervision.”

For further information please see VicRoads Bike Rider Safety.

Ultimately, it is at the discretion of parents to determine the suitability of their children for unsupervised bike riding taking into account the age and competency of the children and the route the children would follow to school. Personally, I would advise parents to make these decisions with caution as you will probably never regret saying "no" to your child’s request to ride to school. The children all know the right thing to do when riding their bikes, however, they may not always decide to do those things when confronted with a situation on the spur of the moment.

Road Safety
A local community member has mentioned to me that they have noticed parents crossing Glen Iris Road without using the crossing. I ask that all pedestrians use the crossing as matter of safety and to set a good example to the children. After all, what do you want the children to do? Remember they will copy the adults around them.

Parking
A reminder to everyone to please obey the road rules and parking signage around the school. The “Drop Off” zone in front of the school may only be used to stop to allow children to get into or out of the car. If you leave your car, you are breaking the law and being discourteous to other parents wishing to meet or drop off the children. I understand that parking is difficult near the school, but can we all please exercise some patience and drive responsibly. The school car park is designated as a Staff Parking area only.

Yours Sincerely

Meredith Carracher

Glen Iris Primary School will, once again, be participating in the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge in 2014. This challenge will be open to all GIPS students. If your child would like to register to be a part of this challenge, you will need to fill out the consent form (sent home yesterday) and return it by Monday 17 March, at the very latest. Forms handed in after this date will not be accepted.

If you would like more information on the Challenge, please go on to www.education.vic.gov.au/prc or see me.

Brodee Goldman
Dear Friends,

We would like to thank all of the parent helpers who volunteered at the Ashburton Festival last week. GIPS was well represented on the day and we were able to raise $550 for the school. Special thanks to Rachael Thomson who, as always, made the organisation of the event look easy; and to Danniel Smith, Kate Van der Jagt, Lauren Crowley and Kate Stanford for help with our student performances.

Thanks also to Jacqui Brown for coordinating the Class Reps for 2014. Most lists have been sent to parents so please contact us if you have not received your copy yet. We’re still looking for volunteers in 4G and 5/6K.

A special reminder that we will be sponsoring another AFL footy tipping competition in 2014. Ashley Mrocki has kindly volunteered to run the program for us this year. The AFL season starts next Friday (14th March), so register ASAP so that you don’t miss out. More information is available on the school website.

Also, we are hosting a BYO picnic for GIPS families at the school from 5:30pm to 7:30 pm on Friday, 21st March. Please check take-home notices for more details.

The next PA meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 17th March. In addition to our normal agenda, we will be discussing plans for our main event for 2014, the Student Art Auction. Please join us if you can.

Kind regards from all of us at the Parents’ Association,

Alex Goldhagen,
President
**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.

**MUSICORP**

Would you like to learn a Musical Instrument and join the Glen Iris Primary School Band? Glen Iris Primary School together with Musicorp are excited to offer a variety of instruments for students to learn. Flute, Trumpet, Saxophone, Trombone, Clarinet and Percussion lessons are available. Please call Musicorp on 1300 858 911 or email Amber on amber@musicorp.com.au

**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.

**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.

**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

**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.
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.

2014 TERM DATES

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2015 TERM DATES

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Is your Lollipop person the sweetest?

Nominate your Lollipop person for the 2014/2015 School Crossing Supervisor of the year award.

Pick up a nomination form online at www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au.

Your support of this program will help ensure your School Crossing Supervisor is shown the appreciation they deserve for their commitment to the ongoing safety of our children.

Closes Friday 2nd May 2014
Boroondara Park Primary School
Almond St. Balwyn North
Proudly Sponsored by
Fletchers
Melbourne’s Estate Agent

The Mad Hatter’s March Fair
Closing with Fireworks at 7.45pm

Saturday, March 22nd
1PM-8PM

Rides
Surfing competition
Melbourne Tigers Bus
Food stalls
Live auction
Pre-loved goods
Book stall
Tea room
Market stalls
Free decorated egg display
Entertainment
and more...

For further information or to purchase Ride Wristbands, call 9857 5157 or visit http://trybooking.com/DZBW

Thank you to our Sponsors

ACE Learning Centre
Balwyn North Discount Park Store
Andrew’s Coffee
Moka Pot Cafe
Dare

More than just low prices
Happily supported by
Bankwest

The Rotary Club of North Balwyn
PIANO LESSONS INFORMATION 2014

Jill and Emily have now completed piano lesson enrolments for this term, and are both at full capacity.

If you are interested in your child having piano lessons in the future, please add your name and details to the waiting list at the office. An information sheet is also available there.

If you would like to make an enquiry or check your progress on the waiting list, please email Emily Watson at emilywatson@y7mail.com or call on 0421 797 856.

*Please note: email is generally the best way to get in touch with Emily.*