From The Principal

Dear Parents,

The wintry weather has descended in the past fortnight with chilly mornings and some rainy days. May is a busy month in the school with Education Week events and teacher preparation of students’ mid-year reports.

Education Week 2014
We look forward to celebrating Education Week 2014 with our community in the week May 19 - 23rd. We invite current families to come to school and join in our:

**Family Learning Night – Writing / Spelling**
Wednesday, May 21st 6:00 – 7:00pm
There will be a range of learning activities through the school related to writing and spelling. Families will be able to move through the school trying out all sorts of learning activities, games and competitions. Look out for details further in the newsletter and please mark this date on your calendar.

Curriculum Day
A reminder to families that a Curriculum Day will be held on Wednesday, May 28th to support the student reporting process. Children do not attend school on this day.

Stranger Danger / Protective Behaviours
In the last newsletter, I mentioned a recent student safety incident and asked families to discuss “Stranger Danger” with their children as we have done at school. These days the term “Stranger Danger” is somewhat dated as, sadly, we know children are not only at risk with people they do not know but familiar people and those encountered on the web. The term “Protective Behaviours” is the term used by educators. At Glen Iris, we include “Protective Behaviours” as part of the personal development program. Some families have asked for guidance in managing these conversations in an effective way without creating anxiety in the children. It is also important for parents to remember that children may not only be approached by someone when they are on their own. One family shared with me a recent situation when their junior primary school child answered the front door and invited a tradesman into the home while mum was in the shower. When the child could not open the front door, they helpfully explained to the tradesman how to get into the house through the garage. The mother emerged to find a slightly embarrassed “tradic” sitting in the family room. Fortunately, no harm was done, however, it highlights the range of situations children may deal with and never imagine the potential dangers. We raise children to be polite and friendly – and so we should – but at the same time we want them to be aware of their personal safety. I have included some websites that you may find helpful in addressing this issue.

**Overview of the program for schools:**

**Tips for parents:**

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**May 2014**

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<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td>Naplan Testing</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14</td>
<td>Naplan Testing, Year 1 Excursion—Healesville Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Thursday 15</td>
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<td>Friday 16</td>
<td>Story time @ GIPS—2.30-3.15pm, Year 4 Incursion—History Box</td>
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<td>Monday 19</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20</td>
<td>“Be a Prep” Morning—9.15-10.15am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 21</td>
<td>National Simultaneous Reading 11.10am, GIPS Family Learning Night, Prep Police Visit, District Cross Country</td>
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<td>Thursday 22</td>
<td>Open Day—School Tours, Interschool Sport (5/6)</td>
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<td>Friday 23</td>
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**Upcoming Events**

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<td>Monday 26 May</td>
<td>Prep 2015 Information Evening—7pm-8pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28 May</td>
<td>Curriculum Day—student free day</td>
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Cross Country Carnival
Last Monday, the children from Grades 3 – 6 participated in the House Cross Country carnival at Nettleton Reserve. Despite cold and drizzly conditions, the children all tried their best and competed with enthusiasm. Thank you to Natasha Black for her excellent organisation of the event and to the many parents who assisted and supported the program. The fastest ten competitors in each age group will now compete in the District Cross Country carnival.

Mothers’ Day Stall
Yesterday, the children all carefully chose a special gift to present to their mums on Mothers’ Day this Sunday. Thank you to Sharon Van Doornum and Pip Young for the months of work and planning they have put into this event for the children and to the many parents who helped on the day.

Glen Iris Sports Uniform
I am pleased to advise the school sports uniform is now available permanently at the PSW Uniform shop at the school and in Mt Waverley for families who would like to purchase this uniform item. The sports uniform is intended for students competing in House sports, interschool sporting competitions and Phys. Ed classes from Grade 3 – 6. It is not intended for day to day school wear in place of our regular school uniform.

School Website
Thank you to the people who advised us of the technical problems with the school website last week. This was caused as a result of tampering that occurred with the company that hosts our website and affected hundreds of schools’ sites. The problem has been rectified and our site is fully operational again. It is good to know that families are making such active use of our site.

Congratulations Oxfam Walkers!
Last weekend, some intrepid GIPS parents participated in the “Oxfam Trailwalker” event where teams of four set out to complete a 100 kilometre course in 48 hours or less to raise money for Oxfam. I know other parents have participated in this event in other years. On this occasion, Penny and Scott Ashby, Gary Bennett and Gillian Porter participated in various teams. I believe the Ashby / Bennett team completed the course in approximately 21 hours. Congratulations to all involved in this inspirational effort.

Best wishes to all the mums for a lovely day on Sunday.

Regards

From the Assistant Principal
It’s not great to be late!

I have been joining classes at the start of each day to reacquaint myself with students and the school programs since my return. While it is terrific to see how enthusiastically, and joyously students begin their days I have noticed with the colder weather that there are one or two students in each class who don’t quite make it on time for the start of the day. Missing a couple minutes in a class is not good, because often that is when the foundation of the day’s learning begins. It’s like rushing into a meeting late. If I rush in ten minutes after the meeting has begun it takes me so much longer to sort out what is about to happen and make a productive contribution! If you arrive at a meeting a few minutes early you have a chance to chat with colleagues, catch up on news and be ready to begin work. It’s not that I don’t appreciate the challenges of the morning rush as I had one child who spent her entire school life aiming to enter the Guiness Book of Records for ‘taking-the-longest-to-eat-breakfast’.

The DEECD provided these statistics about the impact of the number of full days being absent has on a child’s learning.

0 - 6 This is within normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7 - 10 This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of learning between prep and year 10.

11 - 20 This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss out on up to two years of learning between prep and year 10.

Let’s all try to be at school before the first bell.

Robyn Floyd

CYBERSAFETY
There are so many questions parents have about cybersafety. One of the best sites for parents of students in upper classes and those who’d like to know more is the site created by Ivanhoe Grammar. Scroll down the posts until you find one that is useful. http://icybersafe.com/

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

Subscribe to Newsletter.

**Wednesday 21st May**

National Simultaneous Reading Session 11.10am.
We are all reading ‘Too Many Elephants in This House.’

National Simultaneous Storytime is an important annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. Now in its 14th successful year it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy using an Australian children's book that explores age appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Grades F to 6 and the pre-school Early Learning Years Framework.

**Family Learning Night 6-7pm.** This year parents and friends are invited to join their children to explore literacy activities with a focus on writing and spelling throughout the school. Our special event this year will be parents from our community with links to the writing world: Andrew Cunningham will talk about editing and publishing and Kelly Mrocki about publishing her picture story book.

**Thursday 22nd May** – **Open Day Tours** – Are you interested in being a tour guide and showing prospective parents of Glen Iris students our school with students from the Promotions Team. If so please return the slip on the notice sent home yesterday. This notice is also requesting offers of help by providing a small plate of food for the morning afternoon teas or to serve tea and coffee.

**Friday 23rd May** – **Walk-a-thon (No Assembly on this day)**

2.00pm Preps - Grade 2
2.30pm Grade 3 - Grade 6

Organised by the Parents Association. Volunteers are needed for this event.

**Monday 26th Mat** - **Preps 2015 Information Night. 7.00pm-8.00pm**

Hospitality on the night is organised by Robyn Challis. Again a notice was sent home yesterday asking if anyone can assist on the evening. Please return the form if you are able to help.

Robyn Floyd - Assistant Principal

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**WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**

Just a reminder all volunteers who work in our school with our children must have current Working with Children Checks as indicated in the policy approved by School Council.

The policy and further information is located on our website.

We have had some situations of parents turning up without these checks and unfortunately being unable to partake in rostered classroom or playground activities, sporting events or excursions.

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**PREP 2015**

**Open Day Tours**
Thursday 22nd May
9.30am-10.30am
2.00pm-3.00pm

**Prep 2015 Information Evening**
Monday 26th May 7pm-8pm
For further information including about our:
“Be A Prep” Morning,
“Story Time” @ GIPS &
“TAKE OFF” Transition
See gips.vic.edu.au or contact the school on 9885 3624
Dear GIPS Parents,

Trust you and your children have settled in well for Term 2.

Special thanks to Pip Young and Sharon Van Doornum for organising our Mother’s Day Stall yesterday, and to all parents who helped out as well. We’ve already received a lot of positive feedback from our families and, as usual, the children seemed to enjoy their shopping.

The Parents’ Association is looking forward to our next event, the student Walkathon, which is scheduled for Friday, 23rd May at the school. All proceeds from the Walkathon will go towards replacing the school playground equipment that was damaged recently. Full details and sponsorship forms will be provided in next week’s notices. (Helpful tip: please ensure that all clothing is labelled with your children’s names to make it easier for us to return to you should it get left behind on the day.)

In the meantime, we are hoping to enlist the help of as many parents as possible. As many of you know, this is a fun and extremely popular event, not only for the students but for their families as well. So, please don’t miss out… contact Donna Polkinghorne or Vanessa Mackie if you are able to assist.

If you haven’t already done so, please save the date for our Main Event for 2014, the Student Art Auction, which is scheduled for Saturday, 9th August. More details to follow.

Also, just a reminder that the latest schedule of Parents’ Association events and other activities is available on the GIPS website to help you plan ahead.

And, of course, best wishes to all families for a happy Mother’s Day this weekend.

Regards,
Alex Goldhagen,
President

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**Parents/Guardians**

If during the day you need to advise the school of your child’s pickup arrangements, please ring the school office at all times. Please do not send this information via email as we cannot guarantee this will always be seen by the office staff or teacher before the afternoon dismissal, and we want the children to be safe and accounted for at all times.

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**Homestay parents wanted for international students**

Auburn High School has a large international student programme and is looking for homestay families to accommodate students arriving in July 2014. The school is located in Burgess Street Hawthorn East and can be accessed by a number of transport options: The 624 Kew – Oakleigh bus running through Oakleigh, Murrumbeena, Carnegie & Caulfield and stopping outside the school, Tooronga station, Auburn station or the Riversdale Rd tram.

For details of remuneration and conditions please contact:

Bernadette Caruana
Manager, Overseas Student Programme
Auburn High School
Phone: +61 3 9804 6344
MOB: 0425 724 844
Fax: +61 3 9822 6837
Email: caruana.bernadette.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
TAEKWONDO AT GLEN IRIS PRIMARY

Thank you for another successful term of Taekwondo!

All the students jumped a level and had a great time learning new skills. We are now taking bookings for Term 2 for our ongoing lunchtime program.

For more information email schoolstaekwondo@gmail.com.au

Join Camberwell High School’s International Student Homestay Program

Have you considered becoming a Homestay Provider for Camberwell High School?

Do you have a spare bedroom? Can you provide supervision, three meals a day, a family environment and study facilities? Are you close to Camberwell High School or within easy reach of transport to the school?

Camberwell High School has 80 international students from many countries including China, Vietnam, Korea, Iran, the Philippines and Indonesia. Many of these students are in homestay accommodation with local families. The School’s International Student Program accepts students from year 10 – year 12. In July we have an intake of 20 new students for our full-time Language Program, and we are currently looking for new homestay families to accommodate these students.

Homestay families are reimbursed $290 per week (including internet provision).

Please contact Rachel Stewart, Homestay Coordinator, for more information.

Phone: 9831 8320 Email: zrs@camhigh.vic.edu.au

Celebrate Neighbourhood House Week

At Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre Open Days

On Tuesday May 13 between 11.30 to 1.30pm
Come and see what happening at your local Neighbourhood house whilst enjoying a free bowl of warming soup and crusty bread.

On Thursday May 15 at 11.00am a Pop Up Poppy Workshop, join others in learning how to create ANZAC poppies out of wool, in preparation to commemorate 100 years since Gallipoli next year. (Part of the 5000 poppies project).

49 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, 3147 (opposite Alamein Railway Station)
Phone 9885 9401
Coughs, Colds and Asthma

Coughs, colds and the flu are one of the most common triggers of asthma. The common cold is caused by an upper respiratory tract infection and is a common illness for children and adults in Australia. As we approach the colder months, here are some tips to keep in mind to prevent and reduce the spread of coughs, colds and the flu:

- Avoid coughing and sneezing on or near others and wash your hands thoroughly to prevent the spread of disease.
- If your child is not feeling well, it is recommended that they stay home and rest, to reduce the spread of infections and to speed up their recovery process.
- Everyone should have the annual flu vaccination to ensure they are protected from this disease. You or your child may be eligible for the free flu vaccination. Details about who is eligible can be found here and can also be determined by your doctor.
- Prior to purchasing any medications or herbal and natural remedies*, you should seek the advice of your doctor or pharmacist as some medications can react with asthma medications. Such as Aspirin, Ibuprofen/Naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications), Beta Blockers tablet and eye drops (used for high blood pressure and glaucoma), and ACE inhibitors (used to control blood pressure).

Stay warm this winter!

For more information, please contact
The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462

Parent and Carer Asthma Information Sessions

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria is funded by the Federal Department of Health to provide free asthma education sessions to groups of parents and carers. These sessions can take place at the school or at a location of your choice. The session runs for approximately one hour and covers:

- Asthma triggers
- Signs and symptoms
- Asthma action plans
- Asthma medication
- Asthma First Aid

If you are interested in attending a parent and carer asthma information session, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria to arrange a session on 1800-ASTHMA or sdoherhy@asthma.org.au

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.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.

BULLYING:
Prevention and coping skills for children and their parents
Examination of 23 prevention skills and 10 coping skills to empower you and your children

Wednesday 4 June at 7.30pm—9.00pm

Location: Rosstrevor Hall, Brighton Grammar Old Middle School, entrance off Allee St, opposite the new Middle School and the Girrawheen Chapel
Presenter: Melissa Anderson—Director of SHINE Academy for Girls and LONGFORD & FRASER for boys, resilience coach, counsellor, pharmacist
Cost: Nil. A gold coin donation to a selected charity is warmly welcomed
Bookings: 9592 4948

Dental services for children
FREE if you have a Centrallink concession card

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

ASHBURTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
9885 7952
office@ashburtoncc.org.au
www.ashburtoncc.org.au