Dear Parents,

As I am writing this newsletter, I am surrounded by a host of “objets de Francais”. Children in costume – everything from Madeleine to the human French Fry and berets as far as the eye can see; children working in cooperative, multi-aged groupings producing Chaussons des Pommes (that’s apple turnover tarts for the rest of us!), replicas of Monet’s Water Lillies and enjoying active games with a French flavour. Later in the day, the children will enjoy a French lunch and a puppet play which will further extend their experience with French language. Supported by a team of enthusiastic parents, our French teacher, Laurence Barre, has worked extremely hard to prepare a highly successful and worthwhile day for the children. Merci, Laurence and parents, in particular Jacqui Brown!

See how your family go with my five quick French quiz questions below. Remember Google is your friend! Answers are located at the end of the newsletter.

What is the name of the French national anthem?
Where were French Fries invented?
What is referred to as “the Tricolour”?
For what event was the Eiffel Tower constructed?
Who is the current President of France?

French Day is about more than having fun. The learning of another language contributes to children’s social and cognitive development. According to AusVELS, our Australian Curriculum, learning a language nurtures reflective, deep and creative thinking in specific ways, cultivates culturally distinctive fields of knowledge, and stimulates awareness of intellectual functioning. In unique ways, languages require learners to engage in self-reflection because effective communication in a new language requires the learner to move outside the norms, practices and acquired behaviours of their first language.

FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST AND STALL
We are all eagerly anticipating the annual Father’s Day Breakfast tomorrow morning when children will enjoy pancakes and other goodies with Dad. This event is always a highlight for the children and gets the day off to a lively start around the school. The lead up to the breakfast involves a great deal of work on the part of our Parents’ Association, not to mention the arrangements on the day. Many thanks to the coordinator, Anna Tomlinson, and her team of helpers who have been busy for months preparing for tomorrow. It’s looking like the team have even managed to book a lovely Spring morning!! Happy Father’s Day for Sunday to all our Dads.

On Friday, the children will have the opportunity to shop for a gift for Dad at the Father’s Day stall. Again, many months of preparation have led to this occasion which I know the children approach with excitement. Purchases are carefully considered and proudly discussed. Thank you to our Father’s Day stall coordinator, Alicia Cambridge, and the team of helpers for the time and effort they have contributed to organising the stall.

SWIMMING
On Monday, the Swimming program commenced for children from Foundation to Grade 4 at the Bialik College Pool. Swimming is a core component of the AusVELS National Curriculum and it is a vital contributor to children’s safety, fitness and recreation. It takes considerable organisation and adjustments to the school program to deliver our Swimming program and it is reliant on the high level of parental involvement and support we enjoy at Glen Iris. Thank you to Natasha Williams for her efforts in organising the program and to
all our families who either help supervise the children and/or make sure all those extra items are packed and ready for swimming each day.

**THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING**

Recently, a group of staff and I attended a presentation on the power of positive psychology in relation to developing resilience in children. It is widely recognised that resilience is an important factor in the development of strong mental health and supports people to make wise decisions now and in the future. The presenter, Hugh van Cuylenberg, spoke about the theory of Psychologist, Martin Seligman, which emphasises the value of gratitude, empathy, kindness, positivity, optimism and mindfulness in building resilience. These are character traits we see at Glen Iris and are always aiming to increase. As we review our Student Wellbeing policy and programs in the coming months we will be reflecting on the theory of positive psychology.

Regards

Meredith Carracher

**Prep/Foundation 2014**

Boroondara schools request enrolments be received by 31 August 2013. Families intending to enrol a child to commence Foundation (Preps) 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 as soon as possible. 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.

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**FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST**

*Thursday 29 August 7.30am - 8.45am*

All are welcome to the GIPS Father's Day Breakfast, tomorrow morning! Even if you have missed out on ordering (unfortunately orders have closed), you are invited to **BYO breakfast** (muffins, croissants etc) and come along and enjoy the atmosphere and catch up with other families.

Complimentary tea and coffee will be available.

Regards, Anna Tomlinson and helpers
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – Curriculum Matters!

Cybersafety Parent Evening
Do you know what trolling is? Are you guilty of ‘lurking’? Are you familiar with ‘KIK’ and ‘Snapchat’? Have you talked to your child about ‘Stranger Danger’ on the Internet?
Join us at 6.30 tonight in the Performing Arts Room to listen to Mick Garrett AFP on the latest issues and challenges for parents – and strategies that will help you.

LOST PROPERTY
The Lost Property Team have found about 60 items of clothing with the names of students who have left the school. This may be an older sibling’s or one you have bought at the second hand shop. We can’t return these items. They will be in the canteen until the end of the term. Ask the Office for a key to check. At the end of the term they will be washed and re-sold in the uniform shop. We also have 2 pairs of shoes and some sporting items.

Robyn Floyd - Assistant Principal

Education and Community Partnerships Committee
At GIPS, we value parent participation in school programs and student learning. To support this, we run a number of Parent Information Sessions and Family Evenings throughout the school year. In the past, these sessions have included Transition Evenings, Camping Information Sessions and areas such as Student Welfare and ICT.
To help in planning future sessions, we would like to invite the parent community to provide feedback in areas such as the value of sessions, possible areas for improvement and attendance. Please visit the school website at www.gips.vic.edu.au and follow the link to the online ‘GIPS Parent Survey 2013’ before Friday, 6th September. This survey should take no more than two to three minutes to complete. If you have any trouble accessing this online survey and would like to provide feedback, please see the office for a hard copy of the survey. All feedback is welcome.

Thank you,
Meagan Cofield
(on behalf of the Education and Community Partnerships Sub-committee)

Parents’ Association News

Entertainment Book Fundraiser
The Entertainment Book fundraiser has now ended. A total of 56 books were sold to GIPS families and friends resulting in $728 of extra funds available for our school. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser and remember to keep enjoying the bargains and discounts through to 1st June 2014!

Friends of the Library (FOTL)
FOTL’s September meeting is next Monday: 9am 2nd September, meet at the Library.
Siblings are welcome and parents are invited to attend for any length of time which suits your individual schedules. The meeting is facilitated by GIPS staff and includes updates on library purchases, activities, general discussion and feedback on library use and facilities.
on behalf of GIPS Friends of the Library
Julie Gray
0411 110 537
jsgathome@gmail.com

TWILIGHT MARKET
A big THANK YOU to all the generous GIPS families who have donated toys over the last couple of weeks.
All the jars are also very much appreciated. Natalie Jefferson is doing a wonderful job preparing for the Jams & Preserves stall for the market and is already putting them to good use. If you have any smaller size jars with lids we will keep the box outside the office for another week.
I am also looking for an electrician who can assist with the power set up for the market. If you know anyone who is able to help please pass on my details rachael@synergisticgroup.com.au.
Thanks, Rachael Thomson

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE LITERACY TEAM
We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to purchase some more new take-home readers for our students. To ensure that they remain in good condition, they need to be covered in contact. If you think you could help, please leave your name and phone number at the office and we will contact you.
Thank you,
The Literacy Team
On Wednesday 21 August, Creative Collaborations attended the school and performed ‘Suitcase Stories’ for Grades 3-6. Suitcase Stories celebrates the cultural diversity of Australia. In the show we met eight different women from eight different eras, each with a tale to tell about coming to Australia.

The students were exposed to Australian history, cultural diversity and tolerance, Aboriginal culture and dreamtime. The students had a wonderful time gaining a better understanding of Australian history and the fact that we are all very lucky to be here in this country.

GRADE 5/6C – ‘Summer of 69’
Performance at assembly Monday 19 August
“Your Say” by Grade 5/6
Bella, Ella and Grace would like to know:

Should school holidays be longer?
- Yes, they should be longer 41.18%
- No, they should be shorter 0%
- No, they should stay the same 58.82%

Jessica
I think holidays should be longer because before you know it, it's school again. I think you can spend time with your family at home for 1-2 weeks and then go on a holiday for 1-2 weeks and then have 1 week to hang with friends and do fun things like going to the park and playing sport, go shopping etc. You also don't have to do homework as much but still have to do some homework to keep your brain stimulated rather than going to mush! I think 3-4 weeks is reasonable but 5 or more weeks is way too long!! So I think holidays should be longer but not too much longer otherwise people will not get as much education.

Tessa
They should stay the same because some people might not go on holidays and can start to get bored. Also, people might enjoy school or maybe people still need to learn. On holidays, kids can go shopping but without education, stuff will cost more than what you think it would be. I'm not saying they should be shorter because sometimes kids just need a break and want a rest from all the work. It's good to have a rest and have fun with your friends but kids need an education.

Jeremy
I think holidays should stay the same. If holidays were 3 or 4 weeks the children might lose focus and education might drop. In two weeks, I think kids can learn what they can do within a time limit and not waste time. Also, people might not go on holidays and kids would bother their parents with questions like, When am I going back to school? which would be quite annoying.

TODAY’S NOTICES
- Father’s Day Stall Reminder (white, all)

ANSWERS:
1. Belgium
2. La Marseillaise
3. The French Flag
4. The 1889 World’s Fair
5. Francois Hollande

Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their generous support.

2013 TERM DATES
Term 1 30 January to 28 March
Term 2 15 April to 28 June
Term 3 15 July to 20 September
Term 4 7 October to 20 December

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