Dear Parents,

I would like to thank all families for the support they have shown the school and staff in 2013 as we work together to provide a high quality education for the children of Glen Iris Primary School. A special mention to our terrific School Council and Parents’ Association for their dedication and commitment.

STAFFING 2014

As 2013 draws to a close we are saying farewell to a group of our teachers as they move on to new career, family and lifestyle opportunities. Whilst it can be disconcerting to lose a group of our highly professional team who we have relied on for quite some time, I also believe the opportunities we provide for our teachers at Glen Iris Primary School to grow and expand their expertise in curriculum and leadership is a feature of our school of which we should feel proud. At Glen Iris, we adopt a distributive leadership approach actively supporting the professional growth and leadership aspirations of our teachers. Interested teachers are encouraged to fill positions of responsibility enabling them to hone their leadership potential. Our GIPS Leadership Team has included an Aspirant Leadership program for the past 4 years through which teachers can apply to participate in the senior leadership at our school, coached and mentored by our experienced staff. Of the six teachers who will leave Glen Iris at the end of the year, three teachers have participated in the Aspirant Leaders program in recent years, two of whom have been further sponsored by our school to participate in DEECD Leadership Development opportunities. I am always sorry to lose highly valued and respected members of our teaching force, however, I am proud of the opportunities and support we provide to build the capacity of teachers to the benefit of our school and the State system. Our teachers are clearly highly regarded in the wider educational community. I am pleased to see our departing teachers taking the next steps in their professional and personal journeys.

Our sincere thanks and best wishes to:

Melissa Costa who has worked at Glen Iris for the past 9 years teaching at various grade levels and undertaking numerous other duties. As a member of the school leadership team and Leader of the Grade 5/6 team in this year, Melissa has expanded the curriculum opportunities for students in our school. Her warm, collegiate and empathic manner with staff and students has endeared her to all. We wish you all the best, Melissa, in your role at Sacre Coeur.

Jenni De Villa has held a Leading Teacher position at Glen Iris for the past 18 months and been a member of the Leadership Team for the past 4 years. Jenni is a hard working, dedicated teacher who is constantly seeking ways to improve the teaching and learning programs for staff and students at a class, team and whole school level. Good luck, Jenni, for your time at Laburnum Primary School.

Andrew Cavell has been a very focussed teacher at our school for the past 5 years showing drive and enthusiasm. His optimistic and positive outlook influences staff and students. Andrew’s work at GIPS in Physical Education and now teaching Preps has brought many new initiatives into the school that will continue into the future. He has led our Student Wellbeing program this year. Andrew has applied to join the Police Force.

Rachel Smith (nee Pitson) has taught at Glen Iris for the past 4 years in Grade 4 and Gr 5/6. Rachel is a dedicated and skilful teacher who always has the best interests of her students at heart. She is also a great organiser. Rachel is moving to Ballarat to set up house with her husband, Tim, close to their extended family. Rachel will be teaching at Ballarat Grammar in

December 2013

Friday 20

- Last day of school for 2013!
- School Assembly—12.45pm
- 1.30 dismissal

January/February 2014

Thursday 30

- 1st day of Term for all students
2014.

**Kate Wipfli** has taught Grade 5/6 at Glen Iris for the past 2 years. Kate is a sensitive and perceptive teacher and a lovely human being who brings out the best in her students. Kate will teach at Korowa in 2014.

**Bianca Deckert** has taught Performing Arts at our school for the past 2 years and has forged a wonderful culture of performance across our school. Bianca came to Glen Iris almost by chance and we have been so fortunate to have had her passion and vitality in our school. She has set the bar high for us to continue the great work she has commenced. Bianca and her family are returning to live in Mildura and unfortunately the commute is just a bit too far! Bianca will be teaching with a group of schools in the Mildura area.

**New Staff**

I would also like to briefly introduce our new teachers who you will come to know in the new year. We welcome Mrs Ronna Harris, an experienced teacher from the Geelong area; Mrs Rebecca Givogue who joins us from Narrewarren South P - 12 College; Miss Alex Schifter and Mrs Carrie Butler.

**PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS 2014**

We have planned some new programs and processes for 2014:

We intend to trial conducting school assemblies on a fortnightly basis in Term 1 2014. The purpose of this is to create flexibility in the school timetable to support some new student wellbeing initiatives.

**Bounce Back – a program to build resilience**

One of our new school values is Resilience, a characteristic that underpins many areas of a person’s cognitive and social development. In 2014, classes will adopt a buddy class at an adjoining grade level, for instance a grade 1 class and a grade 2 class. These pairs of classes will meet fortnightly to work on our Resilience program using a peer tutoring approach.

**Student Leadership**

The Grade 5/6 Leadership program, SALT, will be expanded with more explicit teaching of leadership skills, a greater range of SALT teams and more regular group sessions, meeting every week. In Term 1, all the Grade 5/6 classes will work in their grade groups building their understanding of effective leadership before committing to a SALT team for the remainder of the year. Each SALT team will have responsibility for a core school function as well as developing other activities. On Tuesday, our 2013 Grade 5 students participated in a successful Leadership program based on Stephen Covey’s “The Seven Habits of Highly

**GALAXY**

GALAXY groups will continue in 2014 with a different schedule. These groups will meet once per term to participate in activities that embed our school values and additionally for events such as the Walk-a-thon, French Day, Literacy Week etc. One of the values that relate to social competencies will be a focus each term.

**ART Spectacular**

Anyone who has walked through the foyer recently will have noticed the marvellous new art installation completed by every child at Glen Iris Primary School in 2013. With our amazing art teacher, Michele Freeland-Small, the children have produced silk painting, felting and embroidery to produce a rainbow of colour. Please drop by to have a look at this work and a fabulous piece by our prep classes on display in my office.

**Go Mrs Floyd!!**

If you tune in to Radio National (621) tomorrow morning around 9:30am you will hear our own Robyn Floyd being interviewed on her Ph.D research on Fairytales. Robyn will be a guest along with international expert, Jack Zipes.

**Don’t Forget!!**

Have you ordered your student requisites for 2014?? Remember, December 31st is the cut-off date to ensure your supplies arrive in time for the start of school.

Have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Meredith Carracher
On Wednesday, December 11, the bi-annual Soiree was held in the Church Hall. It was a wonderful night with 118 students taking part. The night showcased the talents of the students learning an instrument at school within the Instrumental Music Program. These instruments included the piano, the guitar and the violin. The GIPS Choir performed along with five school rock bands. These bands were made up of students from grads 3-6 and were called Gravity 7, Little Trouble Makers, Sonic Sound, United Nightmare and Mad Hatters. The students all did a wonderful job, some performing for their very first time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our talented Instrumental Music Teachers who, without them, the night would not be possible. So, thanks to Vince Hopkins, Emily Watson, Jill Schofield, Bianca Goldberg and classroom teacher, Danniel Smith who puts in a power of work at all hours of the day with all his bands.

Bianca Deckert
Performing Arts Coordinator
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.
2014
IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

SCHOOL STARTS FOR FOUNDATION TO YEAR 6 ON THURSDAY 30 JANUARY

➢ GIPS Uniform Shop open in 2014 on:
  • Every Monday from 8.30am until 10.00am
  • Every Friday from 3.00pm until 4.00pm

SCHOOL HOURS

➢ 8.55 am Bag Bell: Students enter classrooms
  9.00 am: Instruction begins
➢ Children eat morning tea: 10.40 - 10.45am
➢ Morning recess play: 10.45 - 11.10am
➢ Children eat lunch: 12.50 - 1.00 pm
  Lunch play: 1.00 - 1.50pm
➢ All children are dismissed at 3.30pm

TERM DISMISSAL

➢ At the end of Terms 1, 2 & 3 dismissal time is 2.30pm.
  At the end of Term 4 dismissal time is 1.30pm.

HOURS OF SUPERVISION

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

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

➢ 8.30am - 4.30pm

2014 TERM DATES:

  Term 1: 30th of January - 4th of April
  Term 2: 22nd April - 27th of June
  Term 3: 14th of July - 19th of September
  Term 4: 6th of October - 19th of December
Estrella Preschool has **VACANCIES** in the 4 yr old Yellow Group in 2014

Please direct enquiries to our enrolment officer
Sally Gannon on 9539 1391 or contact BKCES on 9278 4444

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**GRADE 6 GRADUATION – SOME THANK-YOU’S**

To Meredith Dahlsen and her team of Grade 5 mums for the amazing job with the catering on Monday night – we can’t thank you enough.

To Anna Tomlinson and Petra Remmen for organising the decorations and coordinating all the Mums who stepped in on Monday to help set up the hall – brilliant job.

To Rachel Pinchbeck for taking on the bulk of the photo book – uploading photos, following up parents, many late nights, (apologies to Max for dragging him out bed to identify people!)

To Jo Hill for the many hours she spent up at school taking candid shots of the Grade 6 students, doing re-shoots where required, all resulting in a very impressive keep-sake.

All the Grade 5/6 girls who helped make poster packs and wrap the books – so willing to help with anything and everything.

And to our dedicated teachers for putting together such a great graduation presentation, we appreciate your efforts that went above and beyond.

Good Luck to all our Grade 6 students as they move on to secondary school!

Carolyn Currie (on behalf of the Graduation Committee)
Special Christmas Request
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 delivers 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 at the start of Term 1. Thank you for your support throughout the past 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
Thinking of giving blood?

Please review the following most common factors that will determine if you can or cannot give blood.

Most people are able to give blood if they:
- feel fit and healthy
- are aged between 16 and 79
- weigh over 45kg

You may be temporarily unable to give blood if you:
- are on certain medications or antibiotics
- have a cold or are feeling unwell in any way
- have certain medical conditions
- changed medications
- recently had surgery
- had a piercing
- travelled since last donation
- been to the dental

You will not be able to give blood if you:
- have visited or lived in the UK for a cumulative total of 8 months or more between 1980 and 1988
- have engaged in male to male sexual activity or other specified at risk sexual activity in the past 12 months
- have recently been pregnant or given birth
- have had a tattoo in the past 8 months
- have ever had a serious heart condition
- have ever had a serious blood disorder or disease
- have ever "used drugs" by injection or have inhaled with drugs not prescribed by a doctor or dentist

Before giving blood:
- drink up — in the 24 hours before donation, especially in warm weather, and have at least 2 good-sized glasses of water/juice in the 3 hours prior to your visit.
- eat up — make sure you eat something in the 3 hours before donating.
- being ill — please bring at least one form of photo identification

If you are unsure about your eligibility to give blood, call us and speak to one of our medical professionals.

*Further eligibility criteria apply

For further information call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au

Save lives together

JOIN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP IN MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

MALVERN MOBILE UNIT
De La Salle College, Br James Taylor Gymnasium
1314 High Street.

Thursday 16th January 1:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday 17th January 9:30am – 3:30pm

To book your appointment please call 13 14 95

Roll up your sleeves and give blood together.
Call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au/clubred

Australian Red Cross Blood Service

Australian Red Cross Blood Service