Wednesday 28th November 2012

Dear Parents,

Please find below a list of classes and curriculum areas that will not be providing written comments within students’ reports.

Please be aware that these reports will provide assessment data for each relevant curriculum level.

We encourage you to read the attached letter, which we hope will further explain the current situation regarding negotiations.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Glen Iris Primary School AEU sub-branch

3C  5/6K
3N  5/6T
4G  LOTE - French
4P  Performing Arts
5/6B  Physical Education
Wednesday 28th November 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In December, student achievement reports at Glen Iris Primary School are going to be sent home. We are writing to inform you that this year your child’s report will be less detailed than you would normally expect.

On behalf of teachers, principals and support staff, the Australian Education Union has been negotiating with the Baillieu Government for a new enterprise agreement for over a year. And yet, we still have no agreement. Our main grievances are as follows:

- In 2010 the current Government promised and was elected with a mandate to make Victorian teachers the highest paid in the nation. However, it now offers us only 2.5% per annum. This will not fulfill their promise. In fact, Victorian Teachers are one of the lowest paid in Australia.
- There is a strong need to keep the best educators in education yet 18% of all teachers are employed on a contract basis, 47% of beginning teachers are on short-term contracts and 45% of education support staff are also on short term contracts. This provides little career incentive or financial security for staff to continue to commit to public education.
- As professional educators it is necessary that we collaborate very closely. With limited budgets, the sharing of ideas and resources is an essential part of the way we work to ensure the best outcome for your child. The State and Federal Governments appear to be intent on bringing in Performance Pay which would cause teachers to compete against each other for this bonus. This has been tried in the USA and UK during the past fifteen years and is now being dismantled as it has proved difficult to administer and detrimental to school morale.
- Another cause for our concern is the Government’s reluctance to protect low class sizes.

As part of the continuing statewide AEU bans, parents and guardians will receive a written assessment of their child’s achievement against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and a record of attendance. AEU members have been instructed not to provide any other written information or comments as this is work undertaken outside a paid 38 hour week.

We trust you understand that we have not taken such action lightly and that it has been a topic of considerable professional discussion and personal angst, but we feel we have been left with no alternative. We will of course continue to be available to meet with you should you wish to discuss your child’s progress.

We thank you for your support and appreciate you taking the time to learn why we as a union are taking such action. Our teachers, principals and education support staff are committed to providing the best education for your children. Our goal is to improve conditions across the government system so that we not only maintain but improve the quality of public education for your children and those of future generations.

To show your support, we ask you to send your own message to Premier Baillieu and his government via our campaign website, www.keepthepromise.com.au. Please encourage other members of the school community to do likewise.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Glen Iris Primary School AEU sub-branch