Dear Parents,

The “Silly Season” is well and truly upon us and it is a very busy time at school and for families. Arrangements are well in place for a smooth beginning to the 2011 school year and there are many exciting things to look forward to. 2011 will see us move into our new facilities with the Library/Music Room building due for completion in March and the second stage of classrooms and landscaping later in the year.

**Helpers’ Morning Tea**

All members of our school community support the school and help the staff and children throughout the year. This help may be directly at school or by reinforcing school programs at home. We would be delighted if any members of our school community could join us for a “Thank You” morning tea on Wednesday 8 December at 10.30am in the multipurpose room.

**Playground Space**

Whilst the building program is underway, I am conscious of the increased competition for space in our playground. Consequently, the staff have discussed various means of reducing congestion at playtime and lunchtime. To assist this, we have closed the staff car park area to cars and opened this space up for play. At the moment, Grade 2 children are making use of this area. We will also arrange for the library to be open during some breaks. An entrepreneurial Yianni from Grade 5 even arranged for a group of keen cricketers to watch some of the Ashes First Test at lunchtime last week.

**Staffing and Programs 2011**

**Class Structure:** In 2011, our school will comprise 19 classes across the school with approximately the following student numbers.

- 3 X Preps – 22 children per class
- 3 X Grade 1 - 20 children per class
- 3 X Grade 2 - 23 children per class
- 3 X Grade 3 - 23 children per class
- 3 X Grade 4 - 22 children per class
- 4 X Grade 5/6 - 25 children per class

I believe this structure provides all children in our school with the advantage of small class sizes which optimises learning and enables teachers to provide more individualised attention to students.

**Grade 5/6 classes:** The staff and I have consciously made the decision to continue the Grade 5/6 structure in our Level 4 team. This structure has proved very successful in recent years and is a strategy recommended by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, especially as students are being prepared to move through to secondary schooling. The Grade 5/6 classes align to the state-wide curriculum and also support cooperative learning, mixed ability grouping, differentiated learning tasks, open-ended tasks and projects and cross-age tutoring. We believe students at this age need to be guided to develop independent work habits and organisational skills for future education. Research supports that students who learn in more flexible groupings achieve at least as well as students in straight grade settings on an academic scale. These students significantly outperform students in straight grade settings in terms of social development. I look forward to our Grade 5/6 students continuing to flourish in our Level 4 team as they have in recent years.
Staff 2011:
Principal: Ms. Meredith Carracher
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Robyn Floyd
Office: Mrs. Kaye Norden, Mrs. Liz Devenish, Mrs. Sue Wilson
Prep: Mrs. Susie Walton
Miss. Shanae Hill
Miss. Claire Murray
Grade 1: Miss. Carol Chau
Miss. Meagan Cofield
Miss. Mary-Anne Jansen
Grade 2: Mrs. Lee Laier / Miss. Nikki Winch
Miss. Natasha Williams
Miss. Tanya Tomic
Grade 3: Miss. Sarah John
Miss. Jenni de Villa
Mr. Danniel Smith*
Grade 4: Mrs. Barbara Maclarn
Miss. Lucy Gargano*/
Mrs. Karen Sutton
Miss. Amy Kozciwicz
Grade 5/6: Miss. Melissa Costa
Miss. Emily Burgess
Miss. Megan Neal
Miss. Rachel Pitson
Specialists:
Visual Art: Mrs. Margaret Sargeant
Physical Education: Mr. Andrew Cavell
French: Madame Michelle Payne / Mrs. Shelley Morrison
Science: Miss. Emma Black
Music: Mrs. Kate Van der Jagt
Additional Assistance – incorporating Reading Recovery, Literacy and Numeracy support Prep – Gr. 6
Mrs. Helga Shaw
Mrs. Shelley Morrison
Mrs. Robyn Challis (Reading Recovery)
Program Support: Mrs. Anne Sharplin, Mrs. Nili Guneratne, Mrs. Kathy Jacobs
*= new staff and staff members returning from leave in 2011.
Staff Changes
There will be a small number of staff changes for the commencement of the 2011 school year. Miss. Anna Risbey (Gr.3), Mrs. Michelle Bayley (Gr.4) and Mrs. Sue Nash (Integration) will move on to other personal and professional challenges.

Joining our staff will be Mr. Danniel Smith. Danniel has been teaching in the private sector before joining Glen Iris. Returning to Glen Iris is Ms. Lucy Gargano who is returning from Family Leave. Welcome Danniel and Lucy.

Student Reports and Grade Transition
Over the next two weeks, children will be involved in various activities that assist them to become familiar and confident with their new grade levels for 2011. Children will also receive their End of Year Reports on Friday 10 December. On Monday 13 December, children will meet their new teacher and classmates in an orientation session.

Optimising Learning in 2011
We are always looking for ways to maximise children’s learning opportunities. In 2011, we will trial some small alterations to our school timetable to make the optimal use of the available learning time.

Bell times: From the commencement of Term 1, each day will start with an 8:55am “Bag Bell”. At this time, children will be expected to come inside from the playground and prepare for the day. Instruction will then commence promptly at 9:00am. This will gain us more than 16.5 hours of instruction time throughout the year.

Yours Sincerely

Principal:

News from the Building & Environment Sub-Committee
Reminder: Rescheduled Working Bee will be on Saturday 4 December, 2 - 4pm. This will be a working bee to spread a mountain of mulch on the front garden beds.
END OF YEAR STUDENT REPORTING
On Friday 10 December the Semester 2 Student Reports will be sent home to parents. These reports outline the students’ achievements and progress in the learning areas covered in Semester 2 as assessed by the class teachers and the specialist teachers for Phys Ed., Visual Arts, LOTE (French) and Science. An overview of the Music program that the students participated in this semester is also included in the report. An important aspect of the students’ personal learning and development has been setting goals and self assessing their progress. In the Student Report, you will find your child’s thoughts and reflections of their learning and achievements this semester on the Student Reflection page. We encourage parents to take the time to discuss this section of the report with your child along with their teacher’s comments. No formal parent teacher discussions are held at this time of the year. However, if you have any concerns about your child’s report, please contact your child’s teacher early in the last week of the term.

Barbara Maclarn, Assessment and Reporting Coordinator

Family Fiesta Night
Thank you very much to all the parents who helped out on the Family Fiesta night – those new BBQs were certainly put through their paces with 300 sausages and 200 hamburgers consumed! We were certainly blessed with the weather and we look forward to holding a similar night next year after all the wonderful feedback.

Parents’ Association Roles – 2011
A big thank you to Libby Talbot, Vanessa Mackie and Donna Polkinghorne (Prep / Grade 1 mums) who have volunteered to coordinate our walkathon next year. Also to Catherine Potgieter, Amanda Nason and Melanie Eardley who are taking on Book Club orders. Thank you ladies! I think I have our stalls team sorted (names TBC!) so that leaves only Special Lunch without anyone to manage this much loved GIPS tradition. Please consider getting together with a few friends to manage Special Lunches next year – it will be a shame if next year’s Preps don’t get to experience the fun of a much loved GIPS event. If you haven’t had a chance to help out on a committee as yet, this is your opportunity! The online ordering process has streamlined the whole process significantly so between 3 people it is not an onerous task at all.

Sunscreen
Thank you to all those who have purchased sunscreen for our final PA fundraiser for 2010. If you forgot to get your form in you can still drop it off at the office or we will be selling our remaining stock in the Prep playground this Friday afternoon at pick-up time (weather permitting).

Thank you to Rachael Thomson (Prep 2011) who has generously donated a brand new Santa suit to GIPS for use at Xmas picnics. Not available December 5 - Santa is already booked that day!

Cheers,
Carolyn Currie, President- Parents Assoc
Tel: 0438 898904
Email: carolyncurrie@optusnet.com.au

GIPS CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES
CRE teachers invite families to participate in the GIPS Christmas Church Services on:

Monday 6 December, 2010 in the Church Hall
Prep - Gr.2 - 9.15am
Grs. 3 - 6 - 10.00am

Carols, stories and the Empty Christmas Tree
Each year we ask the children to contribute to the Christmas Hampers distributed by Camcare to local disadvantaged families to help make a special Christmas meal. Some suggested goods are:

- tinned ham, tinned fruit and vegetables, tinned salmon, pasta sauce (no baked beans)
- tinned Christmas puddings and Christmas cakes, packets of mince pies and shortbread
- sweet or savoury biscuits, chips, cordial, soft drinks, fruit juice, coffee, tea, Milo or Quik

If the children would prefer to bring small presents rather than food, the only request is that the present is not wrapped.

The gifts are collected as children enter the hall and a “symbolic goodies” basket is placed under the empty Christmas Tree at the appropriate time during the service. CRE teachers deliver these goods to Camcare after the service.

Margaret Duncan, Convener CRE Teachers
Parents
You are invited to join us for

MORNING TEA

on Wednesday 8 December
in the multi-purpose room at 10.30am
to thank you for all the support you give to the
Glen Iris Primary School community
during the year.
We hope you can come along.

From
The GIPS Staff

THANK YOU
Thank you to staff and the many parents who
helped out at the Swimming Carnival.
Andrew Cavell

UNIFORM SHOP
Monday 13 December will be the last day to
purchase uniform items from the Uniform Shop for
2010. Watch this space to find out when it will re-
open in 2011.

VIOLIN LESSONS 2011
Violin lessons will be continuing in 2011. If your
child is interested please leave your name at the
School Office or come to the
School Office for more information.
Natalia, Violin Teacher

On Wednesday 17th November we went to the
Royal Botanic Gardens and we went on the bus
and when we got there we had recess and then we
saw Lana. She took us to the herb garden and I
really liked the potpourri pouch. By Erica PW

On Wednesday 17th November we went to the
Royal Botanic Gardens. We went to the
herb garden and we made a potpourri
pouch. My favourite part was the worms.
By Scarlett PW

On Wednesday I went to the Royal Botanic
Gardens. I made a potpourri pouch and I made a
sunflower and we played games. My favourite
part was making the sunflower. By Preston PW

On Wednesday we went to the
Royal Botanic Gardens. We met
Lana. I saw the worms. By Casey PW
END OF YEAR CLEAN UP

Pens, pencils, paper, sharpeners, textas etc. are being collected for the children in Zambia on behalf of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn. Please leave any unwanted items at the Front Office. These items do not need to be new, just in reasonable order - pencil cases, folders, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, empty work books etc. Please call Emma Plowright 9889 6085 with any queries.

BABYSITTING
- Ex GIPS student, 15 yrs old, available for babysitting. Experienced in looking after younger siblings and family friends in local area. Refs. available. Contact Tegan on 9885 7436 or 0433 081 554.
- Alexandra, older sister of current GIPS student, available for babysitting on weekends and after school. Ph.9885 2160 or 0430 158 666

FOR SALE
- Acoustic guitar - new, epiphone (mahogany wood), lovely sound, with bag, pick and tuner. $100 Ph. 0408 538 876
- Beautiful Raggetti violin, 3/4 size, including hard case, bow and shoulder rest. Hardly ever used, in mint condition, $300. Call or text Pip on 0414 264 138

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

Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their support.

INFORMATION BASKET
Copies of this information are available at the office:
- Position available - Senior Dental Nurse Part-time, Ashburton/Camberwell area, some experience essential. Ph.9882 3743 for more details.
- Art'scool for Kids - Art Classes for children with Ms Terry Taylor - Xmas Holiday Program 2010 and Term 1 Art Program 2011 Ph.9885 1195
- Active Feet Kids’ Triathlon - a fun non-competitive junior event (5 -15yo) with distances catering for all abilities. Sunday 12 Dec at Wesley College Glen Waverley 1pm. More info: www.triathlonkids.com.au or Mark 0425 853 678
- Girls’ Soccer Clinic with the Ashburton Women’s Soccer Club. Currently being held for girls intending to play in the U/9, U/11 and U/12 during the 2011 winter season. Held every Sunday at 9am at Solway PS. 0409 235 641 for more information.
- Indoor Soccer for boys/girls/men/women - new season Feb. Enter now. Ph. Sally 0409 764 165
- RSPCA Holiday Programs for age groups 5-6, 7-9, 10-14 & 14-18. Visit www.rspcavic.org or ph. 9224 2286
- Australian Sports Camps - at Scotch College, Trinity Grammar & Mentone Grammar. Ph. 0397 544 455 or visit www.australiansportscamps.com.au
- Tennis Clinics/Tournament for the school holidays - East Malvern Tennis Club, Korowa. Ph.9528 6375
- Super Cricket Camp - Ages: 5 to 16, Dec 20 - 22 at Xavier, Kew. Ph. 1800 35 14 15 or visit www.cricketcoaching.com.au

NOTE: Advertisements are placed according to relevance and interest to the school community and are not a reflection of the school’s interest or beliefs.

2010 TERM DATES
Term 1 1 February to 26 March
Term 2 12 April to 25 June
Term 3 12 July to 17 September
Term 4 4 October to 17 December

2011 TERM DATES
Term 1 4 February to 8 April
Term 2 27 April to 1 July
Term 3 18 July to 23 September
Term 4 10 October to 22 December
IMPORTANT DATES

LAST DAY OF TERM 4 2010
FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER
- 12.45pm Assembly
- 1.30pm Dismissal
- 1.30pm OSHP

FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 2011
FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY
- 8.55am Bag Bell
- 9.00am Instruction Starts