Dear Parents,
Welcome back to Glen Iris Primary School for 2010. I hope all families have enjoyed a relaxing break over the holiday period. I was delighted on Monday to move around the school and see all classes operating smoothly within a very short time. Children were quickly working industriously and engaged in worthwhile learning. This can be attributed to the excellent and extensive planning and preparation made by teachers during the holidays.

A special welcome to the new members of our school community as they commence their time at Glen Iris: our 60 new prep children and their families; other new children who have joined the school at various grade levels and to 10 new and returning members of staff. Our new staff are Miss Shanae Hill (Prep H), Miss Claire Murray (Gr.1M), Miss Tanya Tomic (Gr. 2T), Miss Anna Risbey (Gr.3R), Miss Amy Kopciewicz (Gr. 4K), Miss Megan Neal (Gr.5/6N), Miss Rachel Pitson (Gr.5/6P), Miss Niki Winch (Gr.2LW), Mrs. Mary Brest (Science) and Mrs. Rose Wray-McCann (Music). Throughout the newsletters in the coming weeks, we will introduce our new staff in more detail. Welcome to all our new GIPS community members.

New members of staff: R → L
Miss Rachel Pitson
Miss Anna Risbey
Miss Amy Kopciewicz
Mrs. Mary Brest
Miss Megan Neal
Miss Claire Murray
Miss Tanya Tomic
Miss Shanae Hill

Absent from the photo is Mrs. Rose Wray-McCann, who will be photographed for the next newsletter, and Miss Winch, who is on p.3.

Landscaping Project
During the school holidays, some wonderful work was completed in our play ground. The bulk of the landscaping work surrounding the turf playing field has been redesigned producing a wonderful interactive, creative play space for the children. Once the hot weather passes, the children will be working with our Landscape Architect, Ruth Czermak, to completing planting in this area. The replacement of a large section of boundary fencing on Glen Iris Road has further enhanced the appearance of the school and the security of the

FEBRUARY 2010

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8</td>
<td>Morning Tea following Assembly</td>
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<td>Friday 12</td>
<td>Prep BBQ 5 - 6.30pm Canteen Area (near the Uniform Shop)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 23</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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MARCH 2010

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<tr>
<td>Monday 8</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Wednesday 24</td>
<td>District Swimming (Gr. 4 - 6)</td>
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students. Thank you to Barbara McKinnon, James Tomlinson and Garry Bennett who have led and coordinated these projects.

Working Bee
The return to school always sees some maintenance work required to prepare the grounds for children. Last weekend saw 15 cubic metres of softfall spread under the Prep – Grade 2 playgrounds by a willing band of parents. Thanks to Barbara McKinnon, Adrian Scarff, Brad Phillips, Julian McAll, Ivan Mellado, Sam Pinchbeck, Anne Savvas, Cassandra and Ilias Mastoris, Michael Robinson, Noel Jacobs, James and Anna Tomlinson and James Barber.

Parental Involvement on School Council
Many parents enjoy participating in their children’s school life and contributing to our school community. In fact, research suggests that parental involvement plays a significant part in children’s success at school. One way you can consider being involved in school life is by becoming part of our School Council. This group meets twice each month and guides policy and budgetary decision making in the school. Whilst it is an important part of school operations, School Council members do not need any special expertise, experience or skills. The most important thing is that you want to contribute to continually improving learning opportunities for all children at Glen Iris.

A School Council election is conducted each year. Nominations are currently being taken for parent and teacher vacancies on our School Council for 2010 / 2011. There are 4 parent positions to be filled. Each position is for a 2 year term. Nomination forms are available from tomorrow, Thursday, February 4 at the Office and nominations close on Thursday, February 11 at 4pm.

Sad News
With sadness, I inform you that one of our Glen Iris families suffered a bereavement over the holiday period. Grant Lamont, husband of Yvonne and father to Elisha Gr. 6 2008 and Jacinta, Grade 6 2010, passed away suddenly. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Yvonne and the girls.

Welcome Prep Picnic
I hope all of our Prep families are enjoying a successful and exciting first week of school. On Friday, February 12, we will conduct a Prep “Get Together” and Sausage Sizzle here at school from 5.00 - 6.30pm. We hope all of our Prep families can join us and spend some time meeting other parents, staff and comparing notes on how school life is shaping up.

Bike Riding at GIPS
Late in 2009 we installed some bike racks so that we can move towards children, whose families wish them to do so, riding their bikes to school. Obviously, this requires discussion and clear guidelines to ensure the safety of all. A new school policy has been drafted and will soon be distributed to families. Teachers will also discuss the bike riding guidelines with students. When we feel these matters have been completed effectively, students will be invited to ride their bikes in line with the guidelines. I know we have some very keen bike riders and we will organize these arrangements as quickly as possible.

Yours Sincerely

Meredith Carracher, Principal

Welcome back to Term 1 at GIPS. Parents’ Association is looking forward to a great year filled with fun social activities and some terrific fundraisers. Please take the time to read the notices that come home regarding Yard Duty and Morning Tea help, all assistance is greatly appreciated. New Prep parents to the school are encouraged to put their name down for Morning Tea help - grab a friend, it's a fantastic way to quickly meet a lot of new people!

Our first meeting for the year is next Tuesday, Feb 9 at 8:00pm in the staffroom. All welcome.

Carolyn Currie
President Parents’ Association
Email: carolyncurrie@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0438 898 904

YARD DUTY
A Yard Duty Roster for Term 1, 2010 has been posted up in the Parents’ Association notice board. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered for this roster, there are still a few vacant spots to fill. Call in or ring the Office if you would like to help out in Term 1.

Sarah Hanger
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:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

**THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA MUST BE MET AS AT THE FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 (27 JANUARY 2010 WHICH IS THE FIRST DAY FOR TEACHING STAFF) AND TERM 3 (12 JULY 2010).**

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 26 February 2010 for the first instalment and 6 August 2010 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **$225** for primary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2010 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 26 February 2010 and prior to or on 6 August 2010, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

**EMA application forms are available from the school office.**
Our new Library Books need covering with contact before we distribute them to classrooms for borrowing. If you are able to help with covering, please leave your name and a contact phone no. at the School Office. We have lots of books, so we would love lots of help.
Thank you in anticipation, Shelley Morrison

INFORMATION BASKET
Copies of this information are available in the basket at the front office:

- Waverley Gymnastics Centre offers Gymnastics classes for 5-12 yr old girls & boys on Tues & Fri afternoons, & Sat mornings at Lauriston Girls’ School. If interested phone 9887 9611
- Aussie Kids Karate - for ages 4 & above Ph.9886 9025
- Australian Youth Choir & Australian Youth Dance Theatre Ph. 9836 1877 or visit www.niypaa.com.au
- Ashburton United Soccer Club - All girls & boys welcome. Registration Day Sunday 7 Feb, 10am - 1pm at Warner Reserve Ph.9888 4107 or visit www.ashburtonsoccer.com.au
- State Government funded training course in Box Hill for parents wanting help to return to work. Course runs in Box Hill one day p.w. (9.45am - 2.45pm) for 10 weeks from Tues 9 Feb. No cost for eligible parents. Ph.9895 1666 or 0448 448 461 or email soliver@aiec.asn.au
- Music World Music School - now enrolling for Term 1, 296 Waverley Rd, East Malvern Ph.9572 3391 or musicworld@y7mail.com
- Tennis Open Day - Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club, 260 - 270 High Street Rd, Mt.Waverley, Sun 14 Feb 10.30am - 2.00pm. Ph.9807 7755

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.

GIPS Uniform Shop
Opening hours for 2010
- Every Monday starting 1 February from 8.30am until 10.00am
- Every Friday starting 5 February from 3.00pm until 4.00pm

2010 TERM DATES

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<td>4 October to 17 December</td>
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2011 TERM DATES

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