Dear Parents,

The spotlight has truly been on education in the past few months at both a State and National level. We now have the “My School” website, a National Curriculum and various building programs aimed at developing the resources and facilities in schools. These initiatives have one thing in common and that is that they encourage us to improve the work we do in schools. Of course, that has always been our approach at Glen Iris. We very firmly hold the belief that every child, teacher and staff member has more to learn. As a community of learners, we believe that learning is life long and our professional commitment must be to continuous improvement.

The single academic data set represented on the My School website is the Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN data. Our entire staff analyse this and other school data annually and base decisions regarding the program for individual children and groups of children on this information. Early in 2009, the staff and I identified numeracy as an area for immediate attention and development in our school. This year, all teachers will be focussing on expanding their numeracy teaching practice. We will be working with teaching and learning experts in this area and undertaking additional professional learning to increase our capacity to assess the learning needs of our students. We are very excited about this work and are eager to see even more benefits for children’s learning at Glen Iris. This work was recognised by staff well before the My School website reported on school results. We also realise that a snapshot of groups of children on one particular day is not an exhaustive evaluation of our school programs or the students’ achievements. More comprehensive school data is available on school websites in each school’s “Annual Report to the School Community” and has always been available.

I am sure many parents have had a look at the “My School” website, as indeed I have as both a parent and an educator. If you haven’t had a look, the site can be found at www.myschool.edu.au

If you have any questions about the “My School” website, I would be very happy to talk with you about it.

Road Safety
Did you know that:
• Boroondara is ranked 1st highest of the 16 municipalities in the Melbourne south east metropolitan area for cyclist fatalities and serious injuries
• Boroondara is ranked 6th highest of all of the 27 Melbourne metropolitan municipalities for cyclist casualties per 100,000 population

(Source: VicRoads Statistics)

Thank you to the many families who have heeded our call for children riding scooters to and from school to only do so when wearing a bike helmet. This is now legislation in Victoria. Children are not permitted to ride scooters to Glen Iris Primary School unless wearing a correctly fitted and fastened
helmet. I would also urge parents to reinforce the important messages about travelling to school safely. Many of our scooter riders travel at an unsafe speed. In recent weeks, I have had several reports of students from Glen Iris narrowly avoiding serious collisions due to their uncontrolled riding. Respect for the safety of pedestrians and themselves must be insisted upon.

Another child from the school was very lucky when she was knocked from her bike in Glen Iris Road. This student was doing everything right – wearing her helmet and riding on the footpath with dad supervising – when a car drove out of the laneway behind the shops and knocked her from her bike. Fortunately, the car was travelling slowly and she was unhurt. A timely message for drivers and riders to take care.

Our introduction of bike riding at Glen Iris has otherwise gone smoothly. From Tuesday 9 March, children can ride their bikes on the days of their choosing. Children from Prep – Grade 4 must be supervised by a parent or guardian. All children must wear helmets.

Some families may be interested in the free community bicycle skills training course being offered by Boroondara Council for residents of Boroondara 12 years of age and over on April 17. More details can be found at http://boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/cycling-walking/cycling/bike-ed

Stride and Ride Day - Wednesday, March 17th – St. Patrick’s Day
In support of Boroondara Council’s Sustainability Expo, Glen Iris Primary School will have a Stride and Ride Day on Wednesday 17 March. Children can join in by striding or riding to school (or part of the way) on that day. Also, to acknowledge our environmentally friendly transport practices, each strider and rider should wear something coloured green. The “green” could be ribbons, socks, a hat or something more exotic. Watch out for a notice about Stride and Ride Day soon.

Dogs at School
The walk to and from school is a great opportunity to take the family pooch for a stroll. I often enjoy meeting these extra family members. Some children are easily startled by dogs and can be upset by their presence in the school grounds. Also, dogs can prove a health hazard in the grounds. The policy at Glen Iris is that dogs must not be brought into the school grounds, except with permission for particular purposes. For the safety and comfort of the children, please tether your dogs outside the school gates where passers-by can pass without having to confront your dog.

Landscaping
Thanks once more to Gary Bennett and his crew for the continued progress of the work in the lookout, digging pit and arbour sections of the landscaping. The digging pit and lookout will be “open for business” very soon. Children have been told that the steel frames for the arbour are not to be used for climbing. Please assist us by ensuring this message is reinforced with children at home and that children do not climb on the steelwork out of school hours.

Regards

Meredith Carracher

Kids’ Hope Program
This year, Glen Iris will be taking part in a new wellbeing program called ‘Kids’ Hope’. Kids’ Hope Australia is a World Vision mentoring program aimed at creating a positive impact in the lives of Australian children. The program is to be built on a long-term partnership between the Glen Iris Uniting Church and Glen Iris Primary School. Approximately six students across the school will be paired up with a caring adult from the church to spend one hour each week with the child. Half the hour will be spent doing some reading or school work, whilst the second half hour will be for a game or some sort of fun activity. The aim of this program is to help the children involved develop their levels of self confidence. This program, whilst facilitated by the church, contains no religious content. Mentors undertake extensive security checks and a training program prior to being considered for the role.

If you would like some more information about this program, please fill out the notice (coming out next week) and try to attend the parent information session after assembly on Monday 15 March.

Kate Van der Jagt

Noumea Trip 2010
Just a reminder to parents of Grade 5 & 6 students that a form accompanies today’s Newsletter asking families to register an interest in their child participating in this trip. Please make sure that your reply is back to school by Wednesday 10 March, 2010.
SECOND HAND UNIFORM
A big thank you to Susan Sieber for offering to coordinate the Second Hand Uniform roster, and to Jo Klingbeil and Julie Griffiths for volunteering their time to help out on a regular basis. All other volunteers will be advised of their rostered day. Excellent work everybody!

SCHOOL COUNCIL LIAISON
We still require someone to take on the role of School Council Liaison – this is a full voting position and therefore very important! As a reminder, this person would be required to attend School Council meetings (held once a month), and present a summary of Parents’ Association activities. Ideally you would also attend PA meetings and present a School Council report but if you are unable to do so, this report could be simply emailed through to myself. This person is essentially the go-between for these two groups as Parents’ Association is a subcommittee of School Council. Ideally the role would be taken on by someone who has previously been involved with either group and understands the workings of both.

CLASSROOM CUISINE
Based on the 155 orders last Friday, demand is obviously strong for this service. I would welcome any feedback before we decide how many times per term we offer online lunch orders to GIPS parents. Assistance by parents will be required with receiving the orders at both recess and lunchtime.

BAKERS DELIGHT – A REMINDER!
Please remember to ask the staff behind the counter to register your purchase for our school. We receive 10% of all purchases back to the school each quarter. It’s that easy and the children reap the rewards!
*Please note this offer only applies to the High St, Ashburton store.

Thank you,

Carolyn Currie
President, Parents’ Association
Email: carolyncurrie@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0438 898903

SPECIAL LUNCH
ROSTER HELP-TERM 1, 2010
Thankyou to all the parents who have kindly offered to help with our first 2010 GIPS “Easter” Pizza special lunch on Friday 19 March.
Please see below for names of volunteers, roster dates and times

Counting and Collating Orders Venue to be advised
Thursday 11 March 2010 9.00am-10.30am
Karyn Davies Ravit Tidhar
Jai Wilson Susan Sieber
Kim Turnbull Catherine Potgieter
Amanda Donghia Carolyn Currie
Penny Ashby Kimberly Hobbs
Shusannah Morris Fiona Freemantle
Prue Santamaria Julie Griffiths
Justine Moore Amanda Parsons
Allison Rochow Simone Daniel
Irene Brumen Kathryn Turner

Preparation of lunch Multipurpose
Friday 19 March 2010 11:00am-12:00pm
Kathy Morriss Frossa Mrakas
Peta Coote Sarah Somersset
Priscilla Mellado Julie Griffiths
Prue Santamoria Sarah Cole
Carolyn Currie Kim Turnbull
Judith Scarff

Serving of lunch and clean up Multipurpose
Friday 19 March 2010 12:00pm-1:00pm
Sally Clift Emma Hodgson
Susan Sieber Carolyn Currie
Anna Tomlinson Priscilla Mellado
Frossa Mrakas Amanda Nason
Anne Maree Downes Desi Giannopoulos

Your help is greatly appreciated.
Special lunch committee 2010:
Judith Scarff, Irene Brumen and Kathryn Turner

Jewish Classes
The United Jewish Education Board has offered to run classes, at the same time as CRE classes, for students who are Jewish. They need at least four participants. Please contact the office if you would like your child to participate

SCHOOL BANKING
School Banking has started this year. Prep parents interested in School Banking with the Commonwealth Bank can collect an application kit from the School Office.
Glen Iris Primary School thanks the above sponsors for their support.

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

- Register for Auskick 2010 - Online registrations are now being accepted, go to http://www.aflauskick.com.au/ Paper registration will be held on 20 March at Ashburton, Burwood and Ferndale/Nettleton Park. Ashy Redbacks is the affiliated club of all three centres and encourages Auskickers (boys & girls) aged 8 and over who are interested in playing club football to join the Ashy Redbacks.
- Canterbury Girls’ Secondary College - “The Big Gig” - food, fashion, entertainment 13 March 2010, 3pm - 10pm Mangarra Rd, Canterbury Ph.9830 5099 or visit the school’s website
- Free, fast registration, combine work and family commitments where the employers come to you - JobsForMums.com.au
- Ashburton Primary School Grand Fair - Sunday 14 March 10am to 4pm
- “living for our future” Sustainability Expo presented by Boroondara Council Sat 20 March 8am - 1pm at Patterson Reserve, Auburn Rd, Hawthorn a the Boroondara Farmers’ Market
- 5th Boroondara Volunteer Expo at the Hawthorn Town Hall on Weds 10 March, 2pm - 7pm. No cost.

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.

WITH THIS NEWSLETTER
- Noumea Letter - Expression of Interest & reply slip (Gr 5 & 6)
- Special Lunch Order (All)
- Bookclub Order (Prep)

Bookkeeper / Administration (Part Time)
Local business Services Company is looking for experienced Bookkeeper / Administration person to assist with their clients. Experience using MYOB and Excel and Word is essential. Flexible hours and the ability to work from home is being offered. For further details please call Barry on 0413 371 440.

2010 TERM DATES

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2011 TERM DATES

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