From The Principal

Welcome to the 2013 school year. As mentioned in my website article, we have had an extremely smooth start to the year with many parents commenting on how happy their child/children are in their new grades. Several parents have commented to me whilst on yard duty that their children have had a positive start and one parent commented via email - “Can you please pass on to Miss Hill, Miss Cofield and Miss Wipfli what an amazingly smooth and wonderful start term 1 2013 has been for my 3 children. They are coming home beaming and excited to go back the next day which is fantastic.” This newsletter has loads of information that will help us to continue with our smooth start.

New Staff and Students 2013
We have 2 new teachers, 70 new preps and 4 new students throughout the school joining us at Glen Iris this year. I would like to welcome Miss Christine Hallam, class teacher for 3H and Mrs Laurence Barre, LOTE, to our school. We are looking forward to working with these new teachers and benefiting from what they add to Glen Iris.

Class Representatives
A Class Representative letter: calling for expressions of interest will be coming home today.. Please note this is a short time-frame for return as we wish teachers to finalize these positions as soon as possible.

Parents’ Association
Yesterday we had our first Parent Association Meeting. The Parent Association in conjunction with School Council are proposing a Wine and Cheese Event aimed at providing the opportunity for parents to get together and also to present our school’s Strategic Plan. Please pencil in the following date into your diary: Thursday 7 March. More information to follow.

Industrial Action
As you may be aware due to the media attention there is planned industrial action next Thursday 14 February. Letters will be sent home on Tuesday 12 February detailing classes that will be affected.

Hopefully negotiations will occur in a positive manner and further action will be avoided.

Grade 6 Jackets
Grade 6 jackets: yay they have arrived! We will have a formal presentation at next Monday’s assembly to our Year 6s in conjunction with our SALT badges. Of course we welcome parents to this event!
Late Term 1
I will be on Long Service Leave during week 7 & 8 of this term. My family booked a cruise last April, leaving Perth, sailing to Port Hedland, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. We are all very excited as this a first for us. Ms Barb Maclarn will be released from her classroom as Acting Principal as Ms Floyd is also on leave for some of this time. Ms Maclarn will be replaced by Ms Elissa Toll (taught Grade 2 last year). We are fortunate to have Ms Toll back as she is very familiar with the students and vice versa. Ms Shelley Morrison will be supporting Ms Maclarn in this role.

Parent Involvement in 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 2013 / 2014. There are 4 parent positions, 2 community positions and 1 DEECD position to be filled. Each position is for a 2 year term. Nomination forms are available from tomorrow, Thursday 7 February at the Office and nominations close on Thursday 14 February at 4pm.

Regards,
Carolyn Macaulay

SPORTS UNIFORM GRADES 3 - 6
Please note - there will be another opportunity to order Sports Uniforms this term. We are currently waiting on an updated price list. Orders will again be via the Try Booking website. Watch this space!

2ND HAND UNIFORM
We have a lot of excess stock at the moment so come in and have a look! Everything is $5. For the next couple of weeks we will be having a $1 Sale out the front of the shop. We are located in the building next to the colourful squares. We are open every Friday from 3.15pm - 3.45pm.

Kim Green & Katrina Hrelja

YARD DUTY
Thank you to all who assisted with yard duty last year. It was great to have so many parents volunteering to help. We appreciate your involvement in this important program as it allows our school playground to be an even safer and happier place for our children to play in at lunchtime. To create more play options at lunchtime we are trialing this term a new role for the Yard Duty Parent. The school has decided to make the wonderful library space open to the children to use for board games, chess, quiet reading but no book borrowing, to extend the play space available. It will be the role of the Yard Duty Parent to supervise this space. While trialing this new arrangement we are happy to include more than one parent on the roster if you would like to come with a friend.

Justine Moore
On behalf of the Parents’ Association
9889 9547
Justine3146@gmail.com

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.
The closing date for applications is 28 February 2013.
For more information go to the Notices tab on the School’s website and click on EMA.

SCHOOL BANKING
- School Banking has already started. Remember bank books need to be brought to school on Mondays and processing of books occurs at 8.45am on Tuesday morning.
- Prep parents interested in School Banking with the Commonwealth Bank can collect an application kit from the School Office.
Hello GIPS families,
A warm welcome back to all returning families and greetings to all the new families who have joined our GIPS community!
I would like to formally thank Liz Fowler and the 2012 Parents' Association committee for their great efforts last year. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome the new 2013 committee.
I am looking forward to working with everyone to continue to build upon the good foundations that our previous committee and their stoic team of volunteers had started.
I understand, as parents, all of us are busy, but I do respectfully ask that you find ways to contribute. Do come and join us at our meetings or drop us a line via the school office.
We would like to thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Have a great and wonderful school year!

Sene-Li Wong
President, Parents’ Association

GIPS RADIO STATION / GREENSCREEN
Hi everyone we are writing this to tell you everything about the new GIPS Radio Station/ Green Screen. We have called Dulux about the green screen paint and they are making a special formula for us for free, as you can see we are making progress. The GIPS Radio station/ Green Screen will operate in the office of 5/6 K. We can’t wait to get the green screen/radio station up and running!

Liam and Declan (5/6K)

PARKING NEAR OUR SCHOOL
Please take every precaution to follow parking and traffic regulations when dropping off and collecting your children from school. Most importantly, we want to ensure the safety of all the children.
Reminder: The drop off area is for dropping off or collecting children, no car should be left unattended.
Also, show consideration to our neighbours and do not park beyond white lines restricting access to driveways. This is unlawful.

GIPS STUDENTS - Show Court 3, Australian Open 2013
Four Glen Iris students (Anna 4T, William 4D, Georgie 5/6S and Jeremy 5/6K) played Hot Shots tennis on Show Court 3 at the Australian Open. They played before Carlos Berlocq (Arg) and Kei Nishikori (Jpn) and stayed on court to make a guard of honour for the players and the refs/umpire. The students only played for 20 minutes and had a great time.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN 2012
Thank you to all of the families who supported GIPS by participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. GIPS was one of 12,500 schools who participated in this program and we have just received the products we earned from Woolworths. The most popular products ordered were resources to support Mathematics, English, Science and Arts curriculums. Other popular equipment categories were Music and Dance, Robotics, Sport and Library resources such as books, games and puzzles. More than 9000 different types of products were selected, which just goes to show that every school needs something different.

TODAY’S NOTICES
- Kelly Sport notice (white, Grs.1 - 4)
- Icy Poles (white, eldest, reply slip)
- Medical Form - asthma, allergy etc. (pink, all, reply slip)
- Class Representative Form (lilac, all, reply slip)
- Yard Duty (blue, eldest, reply slip)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Now in a new format, you will find the Noticeboard under the News tab.