From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for 2012. I hope all our families have enjoyed a break from the busy routine that work and school bring. I am sure the year ahead will be equally as busy and productive as 2011. Several parents have commented on how attractive the school is looking now that all the building works are complete. The facilities now available at Glen Iris are first class and are a credit to the School Council and community members who worked so hard to bring them to fruition. Staff have also worked tirelessly throughout the holiday period to ensure all of our learning spaces were fully prepared for students to commence learning from day one. I have been delighted to visit the classrooms and see how settled and focussed the classes have become so swiftly.

The new classrooms housing our grade 2 classes are fully operational and providing a stimulating learning environment for these students. I invite any parents who would like to see the rooms to drop in before or after school.

Welcome to Glen Iris

We have three new teachers, 69 new preps and 11 other new students throughout the school joining us at Glen Iris this year. I would like to welcome Miss Nikki Peipert, class teacher for 3P, Miss Karen Glasscock, class teacher for 4G and Miss Kate Wipfli, class teacher for 5/6W, to our school. We are looking forward to working with these new teachers and benefiting from what they add to Glen Iris.

Our new preps are always a special group of little people in the school. The children have settled beautifully into their school routine quickly, making friends and joining in with a wide range of class activities. Welcome to those prep families who are new to the school. We hope you are already starting to feel part of the Glen Iris community and glad you have chosen Glen Iris for your family. Welcome, also, to children and families who have joined our school at other grade levels. I am sure the children will make friends and settle in very quickly.

Welcome to the Sargeant family (Ned 1W and Mia 4P), the Yze family (Noah PH and Jasmine 4C), the White family (Oscar 1LT, Eliza 3P and Isabelle 5/6C), the Wang family (Lucy 5/6W), the Cole family (Maggie 2S and Lachie 3N), the Paniagua family (Valeria 2W and Pamela 3P), the Navaneetharaja family (Nat PM and Leeshan 2S) and the Seelig-Schattner family (Tahj 3P and Nyah 5/6C).

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 2012 / 2013. There are 4 parent positions (TBA) to be filled. Each position is for a 2 year term. Nomination forms are available from tomorrow, Thursday 9 February at the Office and nominations close on Thursday 16 February at 4pm.

MEET THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOLING – YOU!

Recently the staff and I have taken time to consider how we can continue to build each child’s success at school. Parents will also be interested in what they can do to support their child’s learning and progress. I include the link below to an article from “The Age” which succinctly highlights the key factors that influence children’s success at school. The article quotes Melbourne based research by respected experts in a range of fields. I was interested to note that one of the contributors was Associate Professor Kay Margetts who spoke to our parents during our “Take Off” Program for 2012 Preps.


The Ashburton Festival

The Ashburton Festival is fast approaching on 26 Feb and is an event many of our families enjoy. Look out for our school Choir and rock bands which will be performing on the stage at the festival. Give our performers a big cheer of support. Thanks to Lucy Gargano and Danniel Smith who are coordinating these performances. Further details about the festival are available on the last page of the newsletter.

Notices Galore!

Our apologies for the “paper warfare” of notices that have been sent home in notice folders today. It is unavoidable at this time of the year when we are trying to get the children’s programs up and running as fast as possible. Please do your best to read the details carefully and return the slips to school as soon as possible.

Prep BBQ

Last night, we welcomed all our Prep families to school with a sausage sizzle. The children were very excited to come along to school in the evening with Mum and Dad to see their friends and teachers. Thanks to our prep teachers, Jenni De Villa, Shanae Hill and Claire Murray, for organising this event and to our families for finding the time to join us.

Playground News

The work to restore our Grade 3 and 4 play equipment should be done any day now, so thanks to the children for being so patient. With additional children enrolled at the school, teachers and I are monitoring the playground to ensure children are playing safely and sharing areas fairly. I am hopeful, now that works are completed and children are able to spread out to utilise the entire space, we can accommodate the varying interests of all the children with minimal limitations.

It is great to be back at Glen Iris with the children for 2012. I am looking forward to an exciting year.

Regards,

Meredith Carracher

SCHOOL PHOTOS

- Our school photographer is coming on Monday 20 February to take class and individual photos of the children. All children will be bringing home Photo Envelopes today which must be returned to the school by Wednesday 15 February.

- Please read the instructions carefully and be aware that if you’d like a Family Photo, the tear-off Family Photo Order Form must be filled in and returned to the School Office.
**SCHOOL BANKING**
- School Banking will start next week. 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.

**Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers**
In 2010 we collected 27,295 Coles Sports for Schools vouchers. Last year (2011) we collected 47,881 vouchers. This means we can purchase nearly $1000 worth of equipment. Well done to everyone for helping us with collection and sending students’ vouchers to the Office, this is fantastic.

**Parent Helpers**
Just a reminder to parents coming along to help out with yard duty or excursions, please remember to bring a hat and be Sunsmart from September 1 to April 30. This helps us to reinforce our Sunsmart policy.

**2nd Hand Uniform**
We have lots of stock pouring into the 2nd Hand Uniform Shop at the moment as people clear out the cupboards for the new school year! Pop in and see us - we are open 3.15 to 3.45pm every Friday. We are located in the canteen - behind the new uniform shop. Everything is only $5.

**Kim Green and Katrina Hrelja.**

**Education Maintenance Allowance 2012**
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; and
- submit your application to the school by the due date.

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 (1 February 2012 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2012).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2012 for the first instalment and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $235 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 2012 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment.

**EMA application forms are available from the school office.**

**TODAY’S NOTICES**
- Parent Information Nights (Level 1 - Cream, Level 2 - Blue, Level 3 - Green, Level 4 - Yellow - all have reply slips).
- Photo Order - All, reply
- Art Smock - White, eldest
- Religious Instruction - Yellow, all, reply
- Yard Duty Help - White, eldest, reply
- Icy poles Help - Green, eldest, reply
- Permission for Inclusion on class list - Lilac, eldest, reply
- Local Excursion Permission - Blue, eldest, reply
- Medical Conditions - White, All, reply if needed
- Class Rep Nominations - Pink, all, reply
- My School Rules booklet with information sheet - Lilac, all, reply slip

**KELLY SPORTS GRADES 1 to 4**
**Term 1 2012**
Kelly Sports starts today after school. Enrolment forms are still available from the school office or contact Mark Louis on 0417 124 441.
Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their support.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Copies of this information are available at the office:

- Ashburton Women’s Soccer Club is currently seeking Girl players for their U8, U9, U11 and U12 teams. Beginners welcome. Ph.0409 235 641 or visit www.ashburtonwsc.org.au
- Ashwood Netball Club 2012 Winter Registration Day will be held on Sat 11 Feb from 9.30am at the Ashwood Courts, Cassinia Ave, Ashwood. For more info visit www.ashwoodnetball.com
- Crazy Feet - Dance Studio - Encouraging a love of dance from beginners to advanced. Family discounts, no costume making, air conditioned studios. Ph.9808 3100 or visit the website www.crazyfeetdance.com.au
- Ashburton United Soccer Club - Registration Day for Soccer, Warner Reserve Sunday 12 February 10am - 1pm.
- The United Jewish Education Board runs after school programs in five locations to ensure that providing your children with a Jewish education is as convenient and accessible as possible. For more information ring 9038 5028.
- St. Dominic’s Tennis - Enrol now for Term 1 Tennis Lessons - junior, Pee Wee, Ladies, Adult evening - all standards welcome. For bookings and enquiries contact Peter 9836 0097.
- Superspeak - Public speaking and drama classes for children - Ph.9572 5249 or visit www.ChatterboxClub.com.au
- Aussie Kids Karate at Ashburton Dojo, 413 High St, Ashburton. For ages 4yrs & above. Ph.9886 9025
- Maid to the Rescue - specialising in domestic cleaning services. Contact Georgie 9813 8457, 0412 720 991

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.

NetSetGo @ GIPS
Netball Australia Junior Netball Program

The San Remo NetSetGo! Program gives participants the opportunity to learn basic skills involved in Netball via activities, minor games and modified matches. The program is for students in Grades 1 and 2, cost is $50 which includes a participant pack with backpack, ball and accessories, valued at $20, and $30 for Netball Victoria Membership which includes injury insurance.

The program will start on Tuesday 28 February from 3.45 - 4.30pm, for 8 - 10 weeks. Students must not be left alone at this activity. Registration Day is Thursday 16 February at 3.45pm under the covered area near the Library. Payment must be made on this day via cheque (Ashburton Netball Club) or cash only. Registration forms must be filled out by parents and signed. Spaces are limited.

Parent involvement - any parents with some experience in netball, willing to assist with the program, should contact Amanda Parsons on 0438 562 850.
Important Information for all new families to GIPS.

GIPS Newsletter is Digital

As part of GIPS’s commitment to being environmentally responsible, the School Newsletter is delivered in electronic form (PDF file) via the website rather than as hard copies. We are able to deliver better quality colour images and include electronic links for ease of accessing events, information and forms etc.

The savings in terms of printer toner and paper add a huge cost benefit to the School, as well as reducing the carbon and paper consumption by our community which in turn is better for the environment. Many small efforts make big differences.

For each edition an email containing a hyperlink to the GIPS website will be sent out to school families which have registered via the website as a reminder when the latest newsletter is available. The newsletter can always be accessed from the website without registration. This school’s website is at:

http://www.gips.vic.edu.au

All personal information is stored securely and will only be used for school news and information services, and the system used complies with Australian Government Privacy Laws. If any family experiences difficulty in subscribing, please contact the School Office for assistance.

A few hard copies will be available at the Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 TERM DATES</th>
<th>2013 TERM DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong> 3 February to 30 March</td>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong> 30 January to 28 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 2</strong> 16 April to 29 June</td>
<td><strong>Term 2</strong> 15 April to 28 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 3</strong> 16 July to 21 September</td>
<td><strong>Term 3</strong> 15 July to 20 September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ashburton Community Festival Sunday 26 February 2012

Take a trip ‘Back to the Future’

Ashburton – a vibrant ‘strip’ shopping centre, tucked in between Camberwell and Chadstone, is staging its 15th annual STREET FESTIVAL on Sunday 26 February. Ashburton Festival is also part of the 2012 Melbourne Sustainable Living Festival.

Festival highlights include:

- Steam Train Rides from 10am – 4pm between Camberwell & Ashburton.
- Thomas the Tank Engine (trackless train) rides
- ‘Back to the Future’ DeLoreean car (display)
- Family bike ride
- Sustainable Suburban Living
  - Ride to Festival – ‘Valet Park’ your Bike
  - Family Bike Ride
  - Garden demos including
    - worm farming, natural pest control, productive pot plants
  - Urban Bee Keeping & Ashburton Honey
- Australia’s biggest Animal Farm & best Snakebuster Reptile show
- High Country Pony rides with prize ride for family of 4
- Working Dog demos
- Entertainment includes - Bananas in Pyjamas, Police Showband, local musicians
- ‘Ab Fab’ Fashion makeover for 5 local residents
- Fabulous food & unique community food, craft, activity stalls & displays

So, mark your calendar - Sunday February 26,
Take to Ashburton High Street – Play, Eat. Enjoy the beat!

For a full program of events go to

www.ashburtonshopping.com.au

Further information call 0417 393 897