Dear Parents,

**Fathers’ Day Celebrations**
I hope all of our Dads enjoyed a great Fathers’ Day on Sunday and were excited to receive those special gifts the children had selected for them at the Fathers’ Day stall. Thank you to our mums, led by Tracey Frater, who coordinated, organised and staffed the stall on Friday, 27 August.

Last Tuesday, 31 August saw a huge crowd tuck into a delicious pancake breakfast to celebrate Fathers’ Day at school. This occasion is always a highlight of the year and this year’s was no exception. Yes, it does take time to produce pancakes for the hundreds of hungry people who come along, but I hope it was worth the wait. Thank you to Sarah Sherson, Janet O’Meara and Penny Ashby plus all their helpers for organising another wonderful event.

**Building Program**
Finally, I can say the Building Program for Glen Iris is underway. Last Tuesday, 31 August, the contractors took over the site and work in earnest has begun. Phase one of this three phase project is due for completion in April 2011 with the entire project to be finalised in September 2011. A display of drawings and plans will shortly be on display near the General Office.

A successful working bee was conducted on Saturday, 28 August, in the lead up to the building works commencing. Thank you to the many staff and parents who came along to help relocate our library into the two infill buildings and set up the existing library as a classroom for 4V. Special thanks to our library technician, Kay Borrow, for her excellent forward planning and organising; Barbara McKinnon for her work in arranging the working bee and to Trish Burrows for overseeing all the logistics on the day of the working bee.

**Tournament of Minds**
On Saturday, 28 August, Glen Iris had three teams compete in a schools’ Critical Thinking and Problem Solving competition at Deakin University. The children from Level 4 (Grades 5 and 6) work in teams of 7 students and tackle a long term problem over six weeks prior to competition day. The teams competed in Language / Literature, Maths / Engineering and Applied Technology. On competition day the children also had to respond to a spontaneous problem with tournament judges. Thank you to the children and their families for their commitment to this intensive program and to Level 4 teachers, Emily Burgess and Rachel Pitson, for facilitating the teams. The teams finished in the top third of the competition in most sections which is a terrific outcome for our school’s first attempt.

**NAPLAN 2010**
Next week the school is expecting the release of NAPLAN results for children in grades 3 and 5. We will arrange circulation of the results as quickly as possible. Bearing in mind the proximity to the end of term, parents who would like to discuss their child’s results are welcome to arrange a time to meet with the class teacher early in term 4.
Literacy and Numeracy Week
Last week, the school participated in “Literacy and Numeracy Week” with a range of interesting and enjoyable activities to promote literacy and numeracy. Preps enjoyed an evening of Bedtime Stories on Wednesday night; Level 4 participated in a workshop with illustrator / cartoonist Richard Galbraith and one of our dads, Andrew Cunningham shared his expertise in book design. Teachers arranged a Maths Trail in the school grounds to challenge the children’s mathematical thinking in a real life situation.

Footy Tipping
Thanks to the Parents’ Association, in particular Trish Burrows, for organising the Footy Tipping competition this year. The top place getters will be awarded their prizes and certificates at next Monday’s assembly.

Ill Health
Over the past term, there have been a large number of children and staff suffering from various bugs and viruses that have been doing the rounds. In many cases, it has taken some weeks for people to make a full recovery. We have even had some classes at times reduced to single figure numbers. I remind parents of the importance of children who are unwell remaining at home to help them recover and reduce the risk of spreading an infection. I anticipate a much more settled term next term as we move away from the winter weather.

Hats On
It has been hard to remember that we have actually passed the official Cancer Council “Hats On” day – 1 September – given the wet and cold weather. However, we are now in September so children are required to wear hats at breaks and for all outdoor activities. Teachers also wear sun smart hats for these activities. I suggest parents help us to set this good example to the children by wearing hats outdoors with children especially if attending school activities.

Bound for Western Australia
From tomorrow until the end of term I will be representing the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on a tour of remote schools in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. This opportunity for educational leaders to broaden their knowledge and awareness of different educational contexts is quite unique to Victorian schools. I am very excited to be selected for this experience and look forward to sharing my learning with you on my return.

In my absence, Robyn Floyd will fill the role of Acting Principal.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful and relaxing holiday break and that the “sickies” amongst us have the chance to get back to perfect health.

Yours Sincerely

SRC
We feel the SRC Survey of poor driving practices in the drop off zone has improved safety. Only a couple of parents double parked last week. It was fun doing it and we will do it again in term 4 to see if our safety record has improved.

Shoe Collection.
We have 66 pairs of shoes and our target is 200. Please keep bringing old, unwanted and wearable shoes by 16 September.

Free Dress for the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund
Free Dress day will be a ‘wear your football team colours’ day. It will be the last day of school. Please bring a gold coin donation to support the Unicef. Pakistan Floods Children’s Appeal.

Legacy Badges are being sold this week outside the Library. $2 for badges, $3 for bracelets $5 for pens.

SRC raised concern about drinking taps not working properly near the Prep area and a plumber has been contacted.

YEAR 4 CAMP 2010
Last week the Year 4s headed off to the beautiful Yarra Ranges for an enjoyable three day camp at Arrabri Lodge in Warburton East. Braving a range of weather conditions, the students worked together to sharpen their outdoor education skills as they explored the surrounding bushland, took flight on the flying fox and giant swing, negotiated their way around the ropes course and climbing wall and toasted damper and marshmallows over the camp fire. One evening the teachers and parents were treated to an interesting night’s entertainment as the students performed in their cabin groups in the “Arrabri’s Got Talent” competition. Many, many thanks to our teachers - Mrs Bayley, Mr Cavell, Miss Kopciewicz, Miss Neal, and our three dads - Ray Carrasco, Michael Georgiades and Simon Pontifex, for their time, leadership and wonderful care they gave to the children to help make this camp a successful adventure.

Barbara Maclarn
Fathers’ Day Breakfast

Well what a wonderful morning was had by all who attended last week’s annual GIPS Fathers’ Day Breakfast. I think we managed to pick the one sunny morning for the week! A huge thank you goes to Penny Ashby, Sarah Sherson, Janet O’Meara and an army of dedicated mums (and dads) for running this event and helping to return all the tables and chairs!

Fathers’ Day Stall

A big thank you to Tracey Frater for a fantastic Fathers’ Day stall - I’m sure all the GIPS dads enjoyed their day on Sunday. Thank you also to all the mums who gave up their time to help on the day.

CANVAS - GIPS SOCIAL EVENT 2010

We have hit 170! – thank you to all those who have bought tickets in support of the Parents’ Association major social night for the year. We are looking forward to a terrific night. Tickets are still available through the Trybooking website – just follow the links from the school’s homepage.

Washing Powder Fundraiser

Thank you to all those families that purchased a tub of washing powder, we have raised just over $150 for the school. Thank you also to those families who donated the extra $1.05 when ordering. Special thanks to the Chesler family for their generous support and to Sarah Hanger for coordinating this fundraiser. Deliveries will commence this week.

Footy Tipping

Well after a closely fought battle all year we have a winner! Caitlin S is our GIPS Tipping Champion for 2010, with first prize of $250. Only one point behind her was Max P and Madeleine C, who received 2nd ($150) and 3rd ($50) respectively. Our encouragement award goes to Sophie P who wins $25. All prizes will be presented at assembly next Monday, with certificates for all those who finished in the top ten.

Kind regards
Carolyn Currie - President
Tel: 0438 898904
Email: carolyncurrie@optusnet.com.au

FOCUS ON INTERNET SAFETY

ThinkUKnow in Australia focuses on educating and raising awareness amongst parents, carers and teachers. In 2009, Glen Iris Primary volunteered to be part of the ThinkUKnow trial. Last month, forty families and many of our staff took the opportunity to listen to Constable Michael Garrett, Australian Federal Police, present the updated ThinkUKnow Program in an entertaining and informative way.

Michael challenged us to think about our ‘digital footprint’ and the following tips for children are taken from http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/

Keep your personal details private. Use an appropriate nickname instead of your real name. Ask your parents before giving anyone on the internet your name, address, phone number or any other personal details.

Don’t share your username or password with anyone. Think before you hit send or post. Once posted, it can be difficult to remove content.

Don’t post anything you don’t want others to know or find out about - or that you wouldn’t say to them face to face.

Remember that private images and videos you send to friends or post on a social networking site may be passed on to others and uploaded to public sites.

Be respectful of other people’s content that you post or share. For example, a photo that your friend took is their property, not yours. You should post it online only if you have their permission and make a note about where you got the photo.

Other useful sites for parents
• http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/
  http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

The ACMA Cybersmart Families Guide is available on our website.
Robyn Floyd Assistant Principal

GALAXY is a three-weekly program where students meet in teams for pro-social activities and games. What makes GALAXY different from other social skills and personal development programs is that each team has students from Prep-year 6. Preps and their Year 6 buddies are in the same team. Our objective is that each student will remain in their team for a number of years with the same teacher building strong cross-year level links and relationships. Sometimes groups plan their own activities while other sessions have a whole school approach. During Literacy and Numeracy Week groups participated in shared activities and our colour newsletter insert shows how much fun learning together can be!
Claire Murray, GALAXY Coordinator

TRAFFIC SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL

Our students are at risk if traffic regulations are not adhered to. Please observe the parking restrictions around the school for the safety of your children. Parking inspectors regularly patrol the area, fining those who disregard parking restrictions, double park or make illegal ‘U’ turns. Please also be aware of our neighbours and refrain from parking too close to driveways especially now the building works have commenced.
NUDE FOOD WEDNESDAYS

Get excited, everyone, because in Term 4 the Environment Team will be running a series of Nude Food Days! These will be held every Wednesday starting from the 13 October (second Wednesday of Term 4). Cool prizes will be given on random Wednesdays to classes with the least rubbish. There will also be a great prize for the best class over the full term! We hope that this program reduces the amount of rubbish generated by the school community. Parents, please send your child(ren) to school with food in re-useable containers.

Thanks in advance,
The Environment Team

LOSS PROPERTY

#1 Jessica N has lost her named school jumper. If found please return to the office.

#2 There is a large collection of unnamed items in lost property. Can all families please ensure that every item of clothing is clearly named. Please check the lost property before the end of term. All unnamed items will be given to the secondhand uniform shop during the holidays.

INFORMATION BASKET

Copies of this information are available at the office:

- Art'scool for Kids Holiday Program 9885 1195
- Anxiety Recovery Centre Parenting for Anxious Kids Thursday 23/9 7pm @ Ashburton Library www.arccic.com.au
- Anglicare “Parenting Again” for grandparents or friends Thursday 16/9 10 to 12 @ Amaro Neighbourhood Centre Chadstone 9721 3646
- All Australian Basketball Camp @ MSAC 20-22/9 www.allausbasketballcamp.com
- Toolbox Parenting Course Thursday evenings starting 7/10 @ St Marks Camberwell Contact Alisa Pont on 0400 662 952 or www.parentstinc.org.au
- Moving Fitness PT Studio - Personal trainer, Masseur & Aquatic Teacher contact Julie Orgill on 0401 994 899
- Australian School of Performing Arts Open Day Sunday 17/10 www.aspagroup.com.au
- Tennis Mums’ Program @ East Camberwell Tennis Club 0425 878 337

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:

- Coaching Kids In Social Situations
- The Power Of The Kitchen Table
- GALAXY Colour Insert

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Glen Iris Primary School thanks the above sponsors for their support.

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
Coaching kids in social situations

“Kids are born with L plates when it comes to social skills. Boys, in particular, need a little help and prompting about how to act appropriately around other kids.”

A mum approached me after a recent seminar with an interesting question about her son’s behaviour amongst his peers. She said her son is lovely but loud. He was a little too enthusiastic with his friends. So much so, that his buddies felt downright uncomfortable around him and sometimes gave him the cold shoulder. He also liked to be the boss, and didn’t like being a follower in social situations.

**Here was a perfect opportunity for this mum to do some coaching to help her son negotiate social situations.**

Sure, it’s great to get excited but kids from 2 to twenty-two need to learn that they have to **tone their enthusiasm down around certain people and in certain situations.** That’s what the socialization process requires. Besides, popular children generally know when to follow the lead of others, how to share their possessions and that they won’t always have their own way. This ability to share comes with maturity, but sometimes children need some gentle parental help in this area.

Here are three techniques to use to help your child to behave well around others, and maintain friendships as well.

- **Remind:** Be pre-emptive with your teaching. Before they visit their friends give them a couple of pointers that are relevant to them about their behaviour. “Remember, to say hello quietly and ask them if they’d like to play with you.”

- **Rehearse:** It’s useful to practise with kids how they should act in social situations. “Okay, Jeremy tell me what you will say when you go to Grandma’s. Let’s practice saying hello.”

- **Revisit:** Give kids feedback after the event but keep it positive and upbeat. “That was great the way you let the other kids lead the way. Your friends love it when you let them be boss.” Kids benefit from being told what works well in terms of their social behaviours, even if their attempts at being good only approximate what you are after. It takes a little time for some kids to get things right!

Effective parents are teaching parents. A lot of the lessons kids pick up from their parents are through mimicry. That’s why modeling is one of your greatest allies. They need to spend some time with you so they can pick up good manners, the importance of sharing and other social niceties. Boys, in particular, need a little help and prompting about how to act appropriately around other kids.

There are times when parents need to make sure their lessons hit home and that includes when you coach kids how to be social and consider the needs of others.
The power of the kitchen table

“It's no coincidence that those countries with strong food cultures also have strong families. When people eat together they talk. You can't help but talk when your behind is anchored to a chair.”

The kitchen table is a parent's best friend. It's where conversations occur. It's where thoughts are aired, compliments are given and food is shared.

If you want to get a window into a child's world then you need to sit around the kitchen table with him or her.

When I was a kid mum always made sure there'd be some food on the table when I came home from school. As soon as I came through the back door I'd throw my school bag in my room and sit down at the kitchen table to eat.

Mum used to sit at the kitchen table and have a cuppa at the same time. She always did.... or it seems like she did. My most vivid memories are sitting around the kitchen table with her.

It's no coincidence that those countries with strong food cultures also have strong families. When people eat together they talk. You can't help but talk when your behind is anchored to a chair.

People attach emotions to locations.

People attach feelings to different places. I'd like to think my family links happy, joyous feelings to our kitchen table. After all we've had plenty of birthdays, Christmesses, fantastic dinners, big breakfasts and countless other gatherings around our kitchen table.

The kitchen table anchors my now adult kids back to their childhoods and gives them a sense of belonging. That's why the kitchen table is the first place they go to when they come home for a visit. They feel at home again.

On my trips to England I've noticed that the English don't use the kitchen table like Aussies do. In fact, about a third of English homes don't have a kitchen table at all. Many families eat in shifts and in front of the television.

English educators are concerned. They want their parents to talk to their kids more. They know when parents talk with their kids they enrich their vocabularies, and better still, influence their thinking.

They know that the kitchen table is a powerful ally in creating talk between the generations. That's why they are encouraging people to sit at the kitchen table more.

Making mealtimes memorable

1. Turn your evening meal into a night out at home. Once a week dust off the best knives and forks and set the table in style complete with serviettes and candlesticks. Try waiting on your family restaurant style and impress on kids that they can use their best manners.

2. Serve from the table. Turn a simple meal into a communal activity by putting serving plates on the table, and plating up from the kitchen table. Kids usually stay longer when food is served this way.

3. Any excuse for a celebration. Look for reasons to celebrate with a sit down meal where everyone is expected to join in. Birthdays, term break-up days or a great school report are worth recognizing in this way.

Published by Michael Grose
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