Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Glen Iris for the 2011 school year. The children have shared many stories of their adventures over the holiday break and seem to have had an exciting time. I hope you are all feeling rested and ready for a year of fun and learning.

I was delighted last Friday to see the children settle back into their school environment quickly and smoothly. This is, in no small part, due to the efforts of the staff who have put in many long hours during the holidays to ensure the classrooms and programs were ready for action from day 1. Thank you to the teachers and support staff for their commitment to these tasks.

WELCOME TO STAFF AND STUDENTS
As well as our 66 new preps who started school at Glen Iris last Friday, there are several other families and teachers who are either new or returning to our school after an extended break. Welcome to Aden (1M), Elena (3S) and Victor (5/6C), Lachlan (3D) and Jordan (5/6B) and Levi (4M). We hope you settle into our school quickly and enjoy learning and making new friends.

There are several new and returning staff members to welcome and introduce. Welcome to Mr. Danniel Smith (3S), Ms Lucy Gargano (4GS), Mrs Kate van der Jagt (Performing Arts), Miss Emma Black (Science) and Mrs Suzi Bamford (Visual Arts). I know the GIPS community joins me in welcoming these staff to our school and we look forward to working together in the year ahead.

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 a recent 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 2011 Preps. http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/meet-the-most-important-person-in-your-childs-schooling-you-20110204-1agpc.html

Ms Lucy Gargano

Mr Danniel Smith
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 2011 / 2012. There are 4 parent positions to be filled. Each position is for a 2 year term. Nomination forms are available from tomorrow, Thursday 10 February at the Office and nominations close on Thursday 17 February at 4pm.

Of particular importance, the school urgently requires a parent who would be willing to fill the role of Treasurer on School Council. Ideally, the person would have financial or accounting background, however, no formal qualifications are required. If you are interested in the Treasurer or other School Council positions, you are welcome to contact me at school for further information.

WELCOME PREP PICNIC
I hope all of our Prep families are enjoying a successful and exciting first week of school. On Friday 11 February, we will conduct a Prep “Get Together” and Sausage Sizzle here at school from 5.00pm – 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.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS NEWS
Over the holiday period, work on our new library and performing arts space moved ahead rapidly. This stage of the building program is due for completion early in term 2. Once the first stage is completed, stage 2 will commence remodelling the previous library and computer laboratory as three permanent classrooms.

Vandalism
Over the holidays, the school was the target of two acts of vandalism that have resulted in graffiti, damage to our synthetic turf and fire fighting equipment. The cost to repair this damage will be in excess of $5,000. I urge any local families that notice inappropriate activity in the school area out of hours to contact the authorities immediately.

Floods
Following last weekend’s unprecedented rain, the school had water enter the building in several locations. Two classrooms, Prep W and Grade 2T, were affected resulting in 2T being relocated to the library infill space. Cleaning of the carpet will be undertaken as soon as possible to allow the class to move back to their regular room. The Department of Education authorised extensive drainage works for our site over the holiday period which should eliminate many of these problems. This work will be underway soon.

Playground Space
During the current stage of building works, teachers are monitoring the playground space thoroughly. Play on the oval is limited to children in Grades 3-6 to avoid accidents. We are also investigating other strategies to reduce playground congestion.

It is great to be back at Glen Iris following a relaxing break and I am looking forward to an exciting time throughout the year.

Yours Sincerely

Ultranet – Parent Registration Update
Thank you to all those families who attempted to register on the Ultranet at the end of the 2010 school year.
While many families have successfully registered their ‘Ultranet Household’, we have discovered others are having difficulty as the temporary password (or ‘Ultranet Key’) expired after 30 days. New Ultranet Keys will be sent home shortly to those families who have notified the school. If you are yet to do so, please inform your child’s class teacher. Families new to GIPS, including new Prep families, will receive further information on the Ultranet in the coming weeks.
If you continue to experience difficulties, please inform your child’s class teacher and we will assist with the registration process.
Thank you for your patience as we continue to learn about this new system!

Many thanks,
Meagan Cofield and Jenni De Villa
Welcome back to Term 1 at GIPS. A special welcome to all our new Prep families, I look forward to seeing you at our Prep Family BBQ this Friday evening. 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 arrive home over the next few weeks requesting help with yard duty, icypoles, uniform shop etc. We cannot run these activities without lots of parent help so your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Our first meeting for 2011 is next Tuesday, Feb 15 at 8pm in the Staffroom. All welcome.

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

Yard Duty
Thank you to everyone who volunteered in Term 4, 2010.
A notice is being sent home with the newsletter today for Term 1, 2011. Please try to find a spare lunchtime, as your children would love to see you, and you will be helping to make a safer playground for everyone.

Justine Moore (9889 9547)
On behalf of Parents’ Association.

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.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL
Just a quick reminder that Glen Iris Primary School is a Nut Aware School and, as such, it is important that parents do not allow their children to bring any product to school that contains nuts of any type. Naturally this includes peanut butter, Nutella, nut health bars and cakes/biscuits that contain nuts. Please inform class teachers of all the ingredients of any food sent to school to share on special occasions. We appreciate your diligence in this matter.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
Just a few simple steps should help you to minimise the amount of lost property in your family and the unnecessary expense of replacing lost property, not to mention mess around the school etc.
• Make sure that all uniform items, school bag, lunchboxes etc. are clearly and legibly labelled with your family’s surname using a laundry marker. (Ball point pens and textas will not do for this task.) The surname needs to be written in BLOCK CAPITALS.
• Consider purchasing sew-on or stick-on name labels. Stuck on You Labels is a company which can be accessed via the web, alternatively there’s sure to be other companies or inquire at Spotlight etc. In our experience, property with these labels is always returned.
• When you have a lost item the following trail should help - classroom, lost property under the 5/6 stairs or the lost property basket in OSHP in the MPR.

2nd HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The 2nd hand uniform shop currently has a lot of good quality items of uniform in all sizes. Don't forget to pop in and have a look! We are open every Friday from 3.15 - 3.45pm and located in the canteen building - just next to the new uniform shop.
See you there! Kim Green & Katrina Hrelja.

WITH THIS NEWSLETTER
• Yard Duty (white, eldest, reply slip)
• Inclusion on class list (lilac, all, reply slip)
• Class Representative nomination form (pink, all, reply slip)
• Internet permission form (all, cream, reply slip)
• Local Excursions (all, green, reply slip)
• Grade 6 Bomber jacket printing (Gr.6, yellow, reply)
• Internet Permission form (cream, all, reply slip)
• Asthma/Medical form (yellow, eldest, reply slip)
• Kelly Sports (white, Grs.1 - 4, send to Kelly Sports)
• Website Newsletter Reminder (blue, eldest)

HOURS OF SUPERVISION
Please note that students are supervised in the yard before school from 8.45am and after school until 3.45pm.

GLEN IRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
8.30am until 4.30pm
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Copies of this information are available at the office:
- Position available - Senior Dental Nurse Part-time, Ashburton/Camberwell area, some experience essential. Ph.9882 3743 for more details.
- Volunteer Alliance Ashburton - a variety of fantastic volunteer roles - Meals on Wheels, car drivers, English and ESL tutors, Publicity Officer and many more. Please contact Margaret on 9885 3815 or email volunteeralliance@ashburtonsupportservices.com
- Ashburton Support Services Activities 2011 - Fun, Fitness, Friendship … and Food for the over 55s Including exercise groups, craft groups, guest speakers, Sunday dinners, day trips and much more. Ph. Fay 9885 3815
- Ashburton United Junior FootballClub aka The Ashy Redbacks - 2011 Registration Date, Sun 13 Feb 9.00am - 12.00pm at The Ashy Clubrooms, Burwood Reserve, Warrigal Rd, Ashburton 60 G7 catering for U9s to U16/17s.
- Ashwood Netball Club (A.N.C) - currently looking for junior & senior players to play in the 2011 winter competition. For more info ph. Maree 9504 2414, 0411 444 431 or visit ashwoodnetball.com
- Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre 2011 Programme - Exercise classes, Languages, Computer, English, DIY and more. Ph.9885 9401 or visit www.alameinnc.com.au
- Ashburton United Soccer Club 2011 Winter Season Registration Day Sun 13 Feb 10am - 1pm for U9 to U18. Warner Reserve (behind Ashburton Pool) Melways 60 E11 Ph.9888 4107 or visit www.ashburtonsoccer.com.au
- The 6th Boroondara Volunteer Expo - Weds 9 March at the Hawthorn Town Hall 2pm - 7pm Free
- Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club Family Day Sun 13 Feb 11am - 2pm, 260 - 270 High St Rd Mt Waverley. We provide Ladies’ & Mens’ Competitions, Kids Group lessons, Mums’ Tennis Program. Ph.9457 7248 or email info@vidatennis.com.au
- Meet & Greet for Grandparents with grandchildren with Autism Spectrum Disorder - Information Session at the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre Friday 18 Feb 10.30am - Noon. Ph. 9479 1721
- Tennis Victoria - Mums’ Program - a five-week group coaching program open to absolute beginners and those who would like to resume playing tennis. Where - Hawthorn Tennis Club, 13 Swinburne Ave, Hawthorn. Ph.0414 874 482 or visit tennis.com.au/vic/play-tennis
- St Michael’s Sacramental Program 2011 - For children currently in Year 6 - the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered on Saturday 10 Sept 2011 - parents may enrol their children for this Sacrament during February (22,23 & 26). Ph. 9885 2498
- St Michael’s Connexions Program - for children being presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation this is a 6 week program commencing on Sun 6 March. Ph.9885 2498 for more information.

- In Motion Personal Training - Sally Williams is a qualified personal trainer who resides in Glen Iris. Offering 2 free sessions focusing on women’s fitness in an outdoor group environment starting Feb 2011. Mums and Bubs classes also available. Ph.0419 883 512 or visit www.inmotionpt.net.au
- Riversdale Soccer Club - community-based club located in Glen Iris and Camberwell. Currently registering players aged 5-13yrs for 2011 season. Ph. 0432 477 170 or email registration@riversdalesc.com.au
- Stage Left Performing Arts School - act, sing & dance classes for kids aged 4 - 16 in East Malvern & Glen Iris. Enrolments now open for Term 1 weekly classes. Ph.9504 2500 or visit www.stageleft.com.au
- Triathlon Victoria Kids Open Day for 7-15yr olds to learn & improve their triathlon skills. Visit the website www.trivic.org.au for Open Day dates and venues in Feb and March.
- Ashburton Women’s Soccer Club is currently seeking girl players for their U6, U9, U11 and U12 teams. Beginners welcome. Please ring 0409 235 641 or email mgsoccer@bigpond.net.au
- Mini Maestros - music classes for babies and preschoolers at the Glen Iris Rd Uniting Church on Monday and Friday mornings. Special half price trial offer for Glen Iris Primary School families. Ph.9387 1500.
- Australian Goju Karate - Special Introductory Programme $35.00 413 High St, Ashburton for ages 4yrs & above. Ring Terry on 9886 9025
- Monash Short Courses Centre - Short Courses for Jan—July 2011. Open to the public. Ph.9905 3180 or visit www.shortcourses.monash.edu.au

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.

FURNISHED PROPERTY AVAILABLE FOR RENT
GIPS family moving overseas from April till September looking to rent their 3 bedroom home. Would ideally suit family renovating their own property.
Please contact Sarah on 9809-4752 if interested.

EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER
My name is Elise Tebbutt, I’m an ex-Glen Iris/Strathcona student and am starting first year uni at Deakin. I’m very experienced with babysitting children of all ages, so if you would like a babysitter please contact me.
Ph. 9885 5843 or 0412 593 885.
Education Maintenance Allowance

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 2011 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (18 July 2011).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2011 for the first instalment and 5 August 2011 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $230 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 2011 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.