Moving Ahead with Technology

On Monday, Victorian government schools spent the day familiarising staff with the Ultranet, a new online learning system for schools. Despite some glitches with the system which I am sure you all heard about through the media, the Ultranet will provide an exciting opportunity for collaborative learning for staff and students plus a window into the classroom for parents. Naturally, this won’t all happen overnight, however, as the site is progressively developed and implemented, we will be inviting families to join us in learning to use this latest example of 21st Century education. For those of us who feel somewhat “technologically challenged”, I think all we really have to do is learn from our children.

Whilst teachers met at school on Monday, all school principals and assistant principals met at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre to find out more about leading student learning through the use of technology in our schools. Leading international speakers from Harvard, Michigan and Cambridge Universities presented powerful research in their presentations about how to engage and stimulate learning through technology. I, for one, am inspired by the technological opportunities being presented to Victorian government schools and look forward to seeing our students build their skills and capacities in Information and Communication Technologies.

Cyber Safety

In this technological age, parents need to be constantly aware of the safety issues young people face when using a wide range of equipment. In recent weeks, the school has managed a number of situations where student use of social networking sites at home has led to difficulties at school. These instances relate to children as young as Grade 2. I strongly encourage families to take advantage of the Cyber Safety Parent Information Evening being offered at GIPS next Tuesday, 17 August. This evening is run in conjunction with the Australian Federal Police and is relevant information for all parents. Even if your children are not using social networking sites and other “on line” environments, their peers probably are and it is only a matter of time before your children will too. We must remember, it is not the sites that are dangerous, it is the way people make use of them. The link below will take you to the site for the group who will conduct our evening next week.

GIPS Sings The Hits

I hope everyone is looking forward to our bi-annual school concert next week. After more than a term’s preparation, the children are almost ready to entertain us. All the staff have done a wonderful job to prepare the classes. Special thanks and acknowledgement needs to go to our Concert Committee ably led by Susie Walton. See you at the Besen Centre on Friday, 20 August for the shows at 6.30pm and 8.00pm.

Visitors From Japan

Tomorrow, Glen Iris will welcome a group of Japanese educators who are visiting Australian schools as guests of Deakin University. The group are here to particularly learn about our approach to kindergarten – school transition. I am sure they will enjoy visiting the Preps in their classrooms and finding out about all the ways we support children and families to commence school. It is a
tribute to our successful Transition program that Glen Iris was chosen to host the visit. Thanks to the Prep team for offering to work with our guests.

**Musicorp Concert**
On Tuesday, many classes attended a presentation by the school band from Lloyd Street Primary School in our Hall. The company that provides many of our instrumental music lessons, Musicorp, also offers the program at Lloyd Street. The Band showed us how great a school band can be, even with quite inexperienced musicians. If you are interested in your children learning an instrument and joining the school band, please collect some information at the office.

**BER Building Program**
Our contract for our school’s building project has finally been awarded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Soon, we will see the commencement of works to transform our existing library into 3 permanent classrooms; the construction of a new library and music classroom and the development of a fabulous outdoor learning space connecting the two buildings. Thank you to the School Council for their perseverance and diligence in seeking the best possible outcome for our school. To the boys and girls who are concerned about the status of the “Chain Walk”, this equipment may need to be taken down temporarily to allow access to our site for builder’s equipment. I expect the “Chain Walk” to be back better than ever following construction.

**Staffing**
It has certainly been a year of staffing changes at Glen Iris in 2010. On 27 July, Mary Brest advised me of her intention to resign from teaching due to personal and family reasons. Mary has taught the specialist science program this year. This role will be delivered for the remainder of 2010 by Mrs Nicole Mathers, who has returned from Family Leave. Also returning to Glen Iris shortly is Ms Lucy Gargano. Lucy will conduct the music program for the remainder of 2010. Children will have fortnightly class music and science lessons alternating week to week. Welcome back to Nicole and Lucy and best wishes to Mary.

**Athletics Carnival**
All the children from grades 3-6 are looking forward to the House Athletics Carnival this Friday, 13 August at the Bill Sewart Athletics Track Burwood Highway, Burwood Melways 62C8. Thanks to Andrew Cavell for his excellent organisation and to the parents who have already offered to assist on this day. Now all we need is some pleasant weather to make the day a success.

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**SIX STOREY DEVELOPMENT IN GLEN IRIS ROAD**
School Council is concerned about the impact of a proposed development on the corner of Glen Iris Road and High Street. The development (Reference Number: PP10/00314) will comprise 41 dwellings and 7 retail premises. Council intends to lodge an objection with Boroondara Council based on the following issues:

- Safety for children travelling to and from school ie. visibility of pedestrians from laneway.
- Traffic flow and congestion.
- Lack of provision for loading zone for delivery vehicles ie timing / access for rubbish collection; household and business deliveries.
- Inadequate provision for rubbish bins.


Jack Risos  
Glen Iris Primary School Council President  
Barbara McKinnon  
Glen Iris Primary School Council Vice President

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**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**
*Please note that the Uniform Shop will not be open on Monday 23 August.*

Normal Operating Hours:
- Monday 8.30 - 10.00am
- Friday 3.00 - 4.00pm

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**SRC NEWS**
The Student representative Council (SRC) met every four weeks to talk about our school.

- We talked about playing safely and not jumping off the climbing wall, not playing games on the equipment and not to be too rough with each other.
- We discussed people taking food on to the oval in their pockets and we are still thinking about this problem.
- Lots of children have been asking for a tap on the oval. This is because it is a long way from the back of the oval down to the taps. The taps at the bottom of the oval are also really busy and we are looking at this.
- We looked at the taps at the junior toilets which need to be fixed as they kept running when people had finished with them.
- People were playing in the junior toilets and we have been talking to classes about keeping them clean.

We really enjoyed being in the SRC last semester and we got lots done.

Declan and Emily
Hi everyone,

Thank you to all those who have already purchased their tickets to our social night at Canvas on October 9. We have a great cross-section of parents attending from all year levels which is fantastic to see. If you are planning on buying tickets closer to the event, please be aware that unless we have sufficient numbers by the end of August we will not have the venue exclusively! We have 130 people, we need a minimum of 170. Grab those tickets now, and if you’re already coming along, ask your friends what they’re waiting for!!

We’ve had some queries about the food supplied on the evening so the menu has been added to the information page accessed through the school website – just click on the flyer icon. Just as a reminder, there is no set up or cleaning up involved in this function! Please jump in, purchase your tickets now and support Parents Association in our major fundraiser.

Kind regards
Carolyn Currie - President, Parents’ Association
Ph: 0438 898 904,
Email: carolyncurrie@optusnet.com.au

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FATHERS’ DAY BREAKFAST REMINDER
Tuesday 31 August 7.30 am - 8.45am at GIPS.
Bring your Dad or special friend to enjoy a fabulous pancake or Brumby’s muffin breakfast to celebrate Fathers’ Day. Online ordering now open. Go to http://www.gips.vic.edu.au and follow the links. Bookings close:
   Wednesday, 18 August
NO LATE BOOKINGS ACCEPTED.
   (We need lots of helpers to make the breakfast a success. If you can help, please let the office know asap.)
Looking forward to a great morning!
Thanks,
Janet O'Meara, Sarah Sherson & Penny Ashby

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SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM
Alison Baker, a visiting primary school nurse from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be attending the school during term four to conduct the Prep grade health assessments and to see other children as requested by parents or teachers (with parents’ consent).

The aim is to provide all Victorian children with the opportunity to have a health assessment; to link children, families and school communities to services available in the community; and to provide information and advice that promotes health and wellbeing.

Parents are invited to visit or telephone the visiting primary school nurse if there are any general child health issues they wish to discuss. The contact number for the visiting primary school nurse is 0412 161 473.

Teachers and parents of students (other than Prep Students) that wish their child to be seen by the school nurse need to complete a Referral form that is available at the school's office. This completed Referral form needs to be returned to the school office by 17 September 2010.

Robyn Floyd

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2010 GIPS SWIMMING PROGRAM
I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the Swimming Program at Bialik College, this includes all the parent helpers from each class, classroom teachers and all the swimming instructors and organisers from Inside Edge Fitness Focus. The grade 3 & 4 students received over 5 hours of intensive swimming lessons, with most groups completing at least 700 metres per lesson. The program has been the most successful, efficient and effective swimming program that I have ever been involved with. I am delighted that I have received such positive feedback from parents and teachers about the professionalism and flexibility of the program. The Managing Director of Inside Edge Focus, Andrew Phillips, has told me of his delight to work with the very happy and focused students from GIPS. I look forward to seeing this program work with the Prep - Grade 2 children.

Andrew Cavell - PE & Sport Coordinator
A note for the diary: The House Swimming Carnival will be Wednesday 24 November, for Grade 3 - 6.
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

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### SPECIAL LUNCH ROSTER HELP
**TERM 3, 2010**

Thank you to all the parents who have kindly offered to help with GIPs “Footy Fever” Special Lunch on **Thursday 12 August**.

Please see below for names of volunteers, roster dates and times.

**Preparation of lunch - Canteen/Multipurpose room**
**Thursday 12 August 2010 11:00am-12:00pm**
- Irene Brumen
- Judith Scarff
- Kellie Sewell
- Kate Kemp
- Julie Griffiths
- Kathryn Turner
- Lucy D’Amico
- Kate Vrsecky
- Kristen Jessen
- Kim Turnbull

**Serving of lunch and clean up - Canteen**
**Thursday 12 August 2010 12:00pm-1:00pm**
- Judith Scarff
- Kathryn Turner
- Alisa Pont
- Carolyn Currie
- Anne Hayes
- Susan Sieber
- Kristen Jessen
- Karyn Davies
- Irene Brumen
- Lisa Steny
- Peta Coote
- Kristen Meachem
- Lucy D’Amico
- Irene Brumen
- Karyn Davies
- Alisa Pont
- Carolyn Currie
- Anne Hayes
- Susan Sieber
- Kristen Jessen

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Special lunch committee 2010: Judith Scarff, Irene Brumen and Kathryn Turner.

**With this newsletter:**
- Concert costumes (mauve) eldest
- Building confidence in kids (green) eldest
- Thinkuknow cyber safety (white) eldest (reply slip)

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**INFORMATION BASKET**
Copies of this information are available at the office:
- Solway Basketball Registration Sunday 15 August 12-1pm @ Solway Primary School or email for more information to: desw@jimsmowing.net
- Glen Iris District basketball registrations are now open. Email for more information to: glenirisdistrict@gmail.com

**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.