Dear Parents,

I hope all our mums enjoyed a pleasant day on Sunday for Mother’s Day and that they were touched by the gifts chosen by the children at the Mother’s Day stall last Thursday. Special thanks to Jane O’Dwyer, mum of Lucy and Jack, and the Parents’ Association for their time and effort in conducting the stall. I know hours of work goes into purchasing and presenting the gifts for sale. The children especially love this opportunity to choose that special something for “mum”.

NAPLAN

This week, teachers began implementing the NAPLAN testing for children in Grades 3 and 5. The NAPLAN testing is a national standardised testing procedure that is administered to all children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It provides us with one piece of useful information about how individual children are learning at school and also a means by which the school can monitor and track different cohorts of students as they progress through the school. The NAPLAN also provides data when evaluating our teaching and learning program. When this information is considered with all the other rich sources of assessment material, we can best determine a child’s strengths and weaknesses and opportunities for improvement within our school programs. Rather than having been “taught” the tests, classes have been familiarised with the format and expectations of the testing program. Parents should receive their child’s results during Term 3.

Education Week

Next week is Education Week in Victorian schools. It is an important time to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students. Our school is offering current and prospective families opportunities to visit the school to participate in learning activities with their children and find out more about the programs we offer. An Information Evening for 2013 Prospective Prep families will be conducted on Wednesday 16 May and an Open Day for prospective families on Thursday 24 May.

This year, our current families are invited to a Family Science Night on Monday 21 May from 6pm - 7pm. The session will provide a fun way for children to share their science experiences with mum and dad. We hope the session will also strengthen parents’ understanding of how the school addresses the science curriculum in both the classroom and specialist classes. Families are invited to come along
to school Monday 21 May from 6.00pm – 7.00pm to join their children in a range of activities commonly used in our programs. We look forward to seeing lots of families during Education Week.

**Friends of the Library**
Our wonderful Library Technician, Kay Borrow, has invited parents to join her to form a "Friends of the Library" group at GIPS. At their inaugural gathering on Monday, approximately 10 parents and friends of our school met to discuss the ways they could contribute to the growth and development of the library. Amongst their suggestions were: recommending books for purchase, assisting with displays, reading of new books, introducing texts to students, technical support, repairs and processing material. The enthusiastic group will meet again next Monday at 9:00am in the library.

**Working Bee**
Thanks to the parents who have already registered their attendance at this Saturday's working bee. Through the organisation of our Buildings and Environment Convenor, Ilias Mastoris, several important improvement and maintenance tasks will be addressed. If any other parents can spare some time on Saturday between 12.30pm and 4.30pm, please forward your details to the school office or directly to Ilias. Many hands make light work.

**House Cross Country**
Finally, on the third attempt, we were able to stage our House Cross Country running event last Friday. Thank you for your patience and understanding when the previous dates have needed to be changed due to inclement weather. We always try to keep arrangements as scheduled, however, wet weather and threats of electrical storms require a cautious approach when considering a large number of children. I would like to acknowledge the expert work of our PE teacher, Andrew Cavell, in the professional way he conducted the event at Nettleton Park. Andrew has planned for every eventuality and ensured a smooth, efficient program resulted. I was particularly grateful for the generous support offered by parents to the event, especially considering the number of postponements; and the team spirit and endeavour of the children in competing was inspiring. Well done to all involved.

**Grade 1 and 2 Healesville Excursion**
Last Friday 11 May, the Grade 1 and 2 children visited Healesville Sanctuary as part of their unit of work on "Endangered Animals". The children benefitted from a lesson in the Sanctuary Education Centre and visited a wide range of exhibits, including the "Birds of Prey" presentation. Congratulations, boys and girls, on your excellent behaviour and thank you to the teachers and parents who arranged and assisted on the excursion.

**LEVEL 4 CAMP**
Recently, I enjoyed a great week at Camp Waratah Bay with 109 Grade 5/6 students and 13 parents and teachers. The cooperation and good humour of the children and tireless efforts of the camp staff left me with a lasting sense of pride and admiration for all involved. Despite some very inclement weather, the children relished the program of team challenges, beach activities, marine biology, the GIANT Swing and even surfing lessons. Enormous thanks to the teachers and parents who gave up their time to provide this experience for the children: Emily Burgess, Melissa Costa, Amy Kopciewicz, Kate Wipfli, Tanya Tomic, Kathy Jacobs, Adrian Scarff, Tim Frampton, Royden Daniel, Andrew Seiber, Darren Garrett, and Jenny Luke.

**A Date for the Diary**
On Monday 4 June, a special assembly will be held to officially open our new school facilities that resulted from the Federal Government "Building the Education Revolution" program. Whilst the buildings have been in use for some time now, we have not had the opportunity to invite some dignitaries along to acknowledge these developments for our school. Parents are invited to join us at the assembly at 2:30pm on Monday, June 4th for this event. More details to follow shortly.

Yours Sincerely

Meredith Carracher

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**WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY**
This Friday 18 May is Walk Safely to School Day. Please make an effort to walk to school this day. If you live too far away from school you can drive some of the way and walk the rest. On Friday the Environment Team will be handing out stickers at the school gates to people who have walked to school. Please make an effort to participate, get active and save the environment!

Thank you, The Environment Team
Grade 5/6 Camp

30 April - 4 May

Waratah Bay

MAY TEAPOT MORNING TEA

Ethan 3N
Finn Prep M
Lachy 3P
Ella 2S
Lucy 2H
Elspeth 4C
Ben 3N
Parents' Assoc'n News

Mother’s Day Stall
What a fantastic time was had by the students of GIPS at the Mother’s Day Stall last Thursday. It was lovely to see all of the smiling faces coming into the Multipurpose room and the appreciation shown by the children was wonderful. A massive thank you goes to Jane O’Dwyer, mum of Lucy and Jack, for the huge amount of effort she put in to make this event possible for our children. Thank you Jane on behalf of the parents and students at GIPS for raising an amazing $1838.50. Thanks also to the parents who helped last Thursday on the stall for giving your time and energy to make it fun.

Trivia Night
A reminder please that our Main Event this year will be held at Camberwell High School on Saturday June 11th, in the form of a Trivia night. Tables are available from now, so please get in and reserve yours ASAP. The Parents’ Association have been compiling a wish list of items to be purchased with funds raised and will make these items known once this has been confirmed. If anyone has any ideas they would like to bring forward, please e-mail me with your suggestions.

Entertainment Books
Our Entertainment Book fundraiser is still running if anyone is interested in purchasing one. A copy is available at the school office if you would like to pop in and see the sort of vouchers the book has to offer.

Liz Fowler
President
m 0430 980 418
efowler@bigpond.net.au

Thank you to the Thanos family for the donation of board games to our library.

CAMP AUSTRALIA NEWS
Rob and the team at the Camp Australia OSHC, would like to let parents know that on the upcoming Curriculum Day on Tuesday 29 May, we will be running an all day program starting at 7.15am and finishing at 6.30pm.
The day will be filled with lots of fun indoor and outdoor activities, including Cooking, Arts’n’Crafts, Soccer, Footy, Capture the Flag and with an extra special lunch of nachos and pancakes!
Please contact Rob at the Multipurpose Room to make bookings. If you would like further information on the day including pricing call the OSHC number on : 9885 9376. The day is subject to bookings, with 20 children the minimum to allow the day to proceed.
See you all soon!
Rob and the Camp Australia OSHC Team.

STUDENT BANKING
The last day for banking this term will be Monday 4 June.

Parents Victoria Online Conference
Parents and other interested participants are warmly invited to take part in the sixth annual online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet during Education Week, commencing at 6.00 a.m. on Sunday 20 May, with discussion topics including: Celebrating Public Education, Travel to School, Multiculturalism, Curriculum, Bullying, Mental Health, School Payments and Funding
There is also the opportunity to comment on other Education issues that may concern you. No special software is needed just an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions are very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate are provided. There are prizes for schools for participation.
The conference is proudly sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
Register at: http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv/
Further information, email: office@parentsvictoria.asn.au
Telephone (03) 9380 2158 or visit: www.parentsvictoria.asn.au

TODAY'S NOTICES
• Family Science Night Information (eldest, yellow)
2012 TERM DATES

Term 1  3 February to 30 March
Term 2  16 April to 29 June
Term 3  16 July to 21 September
Term 4  8 October to 21 December

2013 TERM DATES

Term 1  30 January to 28 March
Term 2  15 April to 28 June
Term 3  15 July to 20 September
Term 4  7 October to 20 December
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Copies of this information are available at the office:

- **Goal Kids - Football Skills Training - Saturdays 10.30am - midday at the Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre, 8 Warner Ave, Ashburton. Boys & girls of all ages are welcome to come along and have a go. Ph. 0407 585 775 or e. anthony@arwk.com.au**
- **Aussie Kids Karate 413 High St, Ashburton - for ages 4 yrs & above. Ring Terry on 9886 9025**
- **“Dermique Perfection” specializing in paramedical skin therapy & beauty treatments 880 Toorak Rd, Hawthorn East cnr Toorak & Burke Rds. Ph.9824 4403 or visit www.dermiqueperfection.com.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.

Free to a good home
2 rabbits, separately or together called Nibbles and Snowflake, 1 guinea pig called Ginger.
I am a past GIPs parent and due to an elderly unwell parent, I will have to do more overseas travelling and need to find a new home for our three lovely family pets. The rabbits are three years old. One is a full size rabbit and the other is a dwarf. They are currently in separate enclosures in our back yard and each has it's own wooden hutch, which comes with them. Both rabbits are super friendly and accustomed to people. They are both female and in excellent health and are well loved. The guinea pig is also three years old and has a smooth coat, is black, white and ginger. Her name is ginger. She is also very friendly and comes with her own house. She gets moved around the back yard and eats our grass in sections. She is also in excellent health and is well loved. Please call Claudine if you are interested on 0408 551 736. You are welcome to come and meet them if you wish to have a look and have questions. I live close to Hartwell Primary School.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
Collect stickers for shopping at Woolworths and deposit either at the School Office or in our own collection boxes at Safeway Ashwood or Safeway Malvern Central. This offer runs till 22 July.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE
Families with outstanding school levies (in particular, the voluntary Library / Technology Fund and School Building Fund) are advised that if these payments are made well before the end of Term 2, the payments will be tax deductible in this financial year.

Office Staff

If not Crazy Hair, maybe a Crazy Hat?

GIPS Trivia Night-
Sat June 16th 7.30pm,
Our School’s Main
Fundraising Event
for 2012.

• Try Bookings is Open! Go to the school website, follow the link, find your table (each table will have a table Captain as identification) and pay for your seats via Try Bookings – it’s that easy!
• Not sure you can round up a full table of 10? See your Classroom rep to hook up with other parents. Support the school, yes, but just come and have some fun!!!!
• We are still looking for donations for the silent auction so please contact Ginny (silgleniris@bigpond.com) or Kristin (kmeachem@bigpond.com) if you have a service or a product that can be auctioned off. Everything is appreciated.
• Trivia Question – What baseball team did ‘Magnum PI’ barrack for? [Answer next newsletter.]
Q. When is it?
A. Saturday, 16th June @ 7.30pm
Q. Where is it?
A. Camberwell High School Hall
Q. What else?
A. Tickets $20, organise your table of 10
   BYO food, drinks @ bar prices
Q. What’s all this about hair-raising?
A. Dress up your hair - give it a night out
   and raise money for library books too!

MORE information:
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kmeachem@bigpond.com