From The Principal

Dear Parents,

After another action packed year at Glen Iris, it is almost time to say goodbye to 2009. Once again, the year has flown in a blur of camps, excursions, incursions, special events, visitors, comings and goings, building and improvement projects, highs and lows.

At this time of the year, we farewell people who are moving on from GIPS, and this year we are saying farewell like no other year. Firstly, to our Graduating class of 2009, you have been a wonderful Grade 6 class setting a high standard of responsibility and commitment for grade 6s in the future. Best wishes to all of you at your various schools in 2010. I know you will do well. We also farewell the following families from our GIPS community and wish your families all the best for the future - the Ahearne, Aitken, Bergamin, Binks, Boyle, Duncan, Hamilton, Jordan, Kerridge, King, Lynch, Marsh, Mizrahi, Scott-Dinham, Shirer and Stabelos families.

Secondly, to other children and families who are moving on to other schools in 2010, we wish you well in the future. We have families moving throughout Victoria and across Australia for family and business reasons. These families include the Askew, Charles, Chesler, Daunt, Freeman, Haughey, Koutsantonis, Seignior, Szeredi, Wang and Wolters families.

Finally, a number of staff will move on at the end of this school year to new phases of their lives – retirement, life in the country, interstate and overseas. Thank you to the following people for the incredible contribution they have made to our school, some over many years. We wish you well for the future and hope to see you back at Glen Iris from time to time.

Jill Barlow: Jill has taught at GIPS for more than 20 years. She has taught across the range of grades and has held many positions of responsibility during that time: Team Leader, Assistant Principal and Student Wellbeing Coordinator to name a few. In 2010, she moves onto a new stage of life’s journey, and, knowing Jill, I am sure life will continue to hold many adventures for her and husband, Russ. I have even heard there may be a caravan involved!

Linda Thurmer: Linda’s 13 years at Glen Iris has seen her make an enormous contribution to curriculum development. Her organisation of many camps and excursions has ensured the children were always presented with engaging and stimulating learning opportunities. In recent times, Linda has been one part of a dynamic duo with her buddy, Hazel Dixon, sharing teaching and leadership roles.

In 2010, Linda will enjoy having more time for herself.

Hazel Dixon: Part two of the dynamic duo, Hazel has taught everything from Prep to Grade 6 in her 15 years at GIPS. During her teaching career, Hazel has held district and regional consultancy roles as well as classroom teaching. In 2010, she moves onto new...
challenges spending time with family and her personal interests.

**Margaret Gleadall:** Marg. has been a stalwart at GIPS for 16 years. She has held various classroom teaching roles and, recently filled the Music Teacher position. She approaches all aspects of teaching with verve and vigour and imparts an enthusiasm to those around her. Marg’s willingness to take on any challenge with optimism has been a great benefit to the school. In 2010, Marg will spend more time with family, her musical interests and travel.

**Penny Fitzgerald:** Penny has spent the past 20 years as an Integration Aide at GIPS. In this role, Penny has supported many children, teachers and classroom programs to ensure all children had the best opportunity to experience success at school. Camps, excursions, special events – you name it and Penny has done it!

**Michael Shannon:** Michael has taught at Glen Iris for the past 3 years and he has grown into a most accomplished teacher. His good humour and easygoing nature, not to mention his ICT expertise, has been much appreciated by staff and students. Michael’s family has recently purchased a home in Drouin and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of a new baby in the next few weeks. Michael will teach at St. Joseph’s in Warrigal in 2010. Good luck to Michael, Holly, Archie and Bub number 2!

**Pete Dickinson:** Pete joined Glen Iris from Western Australia at the commencement of Term 2 this year. You could say we “picked him up in the draft!” Pete has bought a wealth of teaching experience and a laconic style to GIPS during 2009. In 2010, Pete and his family will move to Sydney. Best wishes and thank you Pete.

**Melissa Costa:** Melissa has taught at Glen Iris for the past 5 years and fortunately we are only saying farewell to her temporarily. Melissa will spend much of 2010 living in the U.K and travelling. We will see her back at GIPS in 2011. Have fun, Mel!

In conclusion, 2009 has been a rewarding and productive year for the school. I thank each member of our school community for their support of the school and the children, in particular our School Councillors and Parents’ Association members. Thank you to our wonderful, professional staff – teaching and non teaching – for your commitment and endeavour dealing with a million different things all day every day for the students of Glen Iris Primary School.

**Award Recipients**

At Monday’s Assembly, the grade 6 Personal Development and Citizenship Awards were presented by State Local Member of Parliament for Burwood, Mr. Bob Stensholt and Parents’ Association President, Mrs. Carolyn Currie. The awards were determined by the staff and acknowledged the extensive personal achievements and contributions made by Ruby Edwards (Personal Development Award), Aimee Bowles (Girls’ Citizenship Award) and Cameron Binks (Boys’ Citizenship Award). Congratulations to Ruby, Aimee and Cameron.

**Free Dress Day / Grade Parties**

On Thursday 17 December, the children will all celebrate the end of the school year with class parties. Class teachers will supply details of the class party arrangements. The children are invited to wear casual clothes that reflect Christmas or a celebration on Thursday. Please ensure when selecting casual clothes that children are dressed appropriately for school – hats are still required and thongs are not suitable footwear for a school environment. The Grade 6 children will enjoy their class party at The Cuckoo Restaurant, Olinda. All children will wear school uniform on Friday 18 December.

**Final Assembly**

The Final Assembly will commence at 12.45pm on Friday 18 December in the Hall. Parents are welcome to join us for the Final Assembly. School will be dismissed for the vacation at 1.30pm. School resumes for children on Monday 1 February 2010.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

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**WITH THIS NEWSLETTER**

- Kelly Sports Term 1 2010 (white, Prep - Gr.3)

**2010 TERM DATES**

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Hello everyone.
I would like to take the opportunity, in this last newsletter of the year, to thank some people for their great contribution to the school. This is by no means a complete list, but I would like to recognize some people who are stepping down from their positions or leaving the school to pursue other ventures.
On behalf of the School Council and the Glen Iris Primary School community I would like to thank Kate Bellamy, Liz Fowler and Janet O'Meara, who are stepping down from their roles on the Parents' Association. The Parents' Association does so much work for the school – organizing special lunches, the book club, icy poles, Fathers' Day breakfast, the Main Event – just to name a few. Thank you so much for all that you have done for the school over the years.
There are always changes to the staff of the school, but this year we are farewelling a larger part of the GIPS community. Some of these people have been part of the school for a long time, and the school community has certainly benefited from their skills, experience and dedication. Thank you Jill Barlow, Melissa Costa, Pete Dickinson, Hazel Dixon, Penny Fitzgerald, Margaret Gleadall, Michael Shannon and Linda Thurmer. Good luck with your pursuits.
And the best of wishes to everyone for the holidays and the New Year.

Jack Risos
School Council President

YARD DUTY

A Yard Duty Roster for Term 1, 2010 will be posted up in the Parents’ Association notice board at the start of next year. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered for this roster, there are still a few vacant spots to fill. Another request for volunteers will come out early in Term 1, 2010

Sarah Hanger

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Next year sixty new Prep children will commence their primary years schooling at GIPS. During November we welcomed these children and their families into our community at the Prep Take Off Program. Our Prep teachers Miss Cofield, Miss Jansen and Miss Williams, together with our 2010 Prep teachers Mrs Walton and Miss Hill, conducted a wonderful series of activities to help the children become familiar with their new learning environment and provide opportunities for them to get to know their new classmates, as well as their Year 5 buddies. I would like to thank all the Prep parents, and the Year 6 students who assisted in various ways either in the classrooms or at the parent information sessions. Your support, care and generosity truly contributed to the success of the program and was much appreciated by our new Prep families. I feel very confident that our Preps will get off to a great start at GIPS in 2010.

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