From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Over the next couple of weeks, teachers will be conducting Level Information Nights and “Getting To Know You” interviews. Dates and times for these events are in the forward diary. I urge families to take advantage of these opportunities to find out more about the classroom programs and to provide valuable information to the teachers. This two-way information is a vital component to children’s success at school.

Prep BBQ

It was a lovely evening last Friday, February 12 when the Prep Welcome BBQ was held. Families and staff enjoyed the chance to catch up in a relaxed environment. Many thanks to our Parents’ Association for their help with catering, in particular Carolyn Currie, Rachel Pinchbeck and Susan Seiber. Thanks also to the “Master Chefs” behind the barbecue: Peter Holmes, Grant Currie and Sam Pinchbeck. Thanks to the Prep teachers, Mary-Anne Jansen, Susie Walton and Shanae Hill, and Barb. Maclarn for giving up their time to support the occasion.

School Photos

A reminder to parents that class and individual photos will be taken next Tuesday, 23 February. Envelopes and payment are required prior to the day. This year, we are using a different photographer, which may see a slight price increase, however, we are anticipating a high quality, professional set of photos as a result.

Bike Riding

Last week, all families should have received a notice about the introduction of bike riding at Glen Iris Primary School. In these early days, we have taken the step of staggering the bringing of bikes to ensure a smooth implementation of the program. Whilst I understand that our arrangements may not suit every family, I ask parents to support these measures patiently during this early stage. Each level has a day on which they may ride bikes. If that does not suit, why not share the supervision of the riders with another family, as I know some people are doing. Children invited to bring bikes on Fridays are those children who are truly unable to ride on the allocated day, not those who would simple prefer or find it more convenient on Friday.

GIPS – A Nut Free Environment!

At Glen Iris Primary School, we have several children with an extreme allergic reaction to a range of foods, especially nuts. For this reason, we ask that no nuts, nut products, or products containing nuts be brought to school. This applies to snacks, lunches and special class parties. We also discourage the children sharing food except on special occasions as part of a specific program or event. Please help us make Glen Iris a safe environment for ALL the children.

Email: glen.iris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Website: www.gips.vic.edu.au
School Council Elections
Following the calling of nominations to fill vacancies on our school council, I have received 4 nominations to fill the 4 vacancies. Therefore, I announce Jack Risos, Peter Holmes, Ivan Mellado and Fi Harrison duly elected to School Council for a two year term. Thank you to these people for their commitment and support of the school.

Social Networking Website
I draw to parents’ attention the prevalence of children accessing a range of social networking websites such as MySpace, Face book, MSN etc. Although these sites often have an age range that begins beyond the primary school years, the staff are aware that many of the older students regularly use them away from school. Parents are advised to monitor their children’s online activities carefully to ensure safe and suitable access is being maintained. Some children also contact teachers asking to be their online “friend”. Whilst we realise this is common practice amongst the children, the teachers and I do not think this is wise practice for teachers. We hope the community can understand that this does not stem from a wish to seem distant or unapproachable but as being in the best interests of students and staff. We welcome past students and community to maintain their links with the school in other ways such as visits to the school or joining in school community events.

Classroom Cuisine
This year, the Parents’ Association plan to trial a lunch ordering program through a company called “Classroom Cuisine”. This program will enable families to select a variety of lunch items for children online on selected dates throughout the year. This program will operate separately to the school based Special Lunches. To place a lunch order, simply log on to the website and follow the instructions. The first date for “Classroom Cuisine” lunches is Friday, 26 February.

Yours Sincerely
Meredith Carracher

Jewish Classes at Chabad Malvern
To all the Jewish families at Glen Iris PS
I have a daughter in Gr.4 who is attending Hebrew School at Chabad, Malvern on Monday from 4.00 - 5.30pm. I would like to car pool with another family. Would you be interested in sending your child/children to Chabad? I am able to pick up after every class at 5.30pm and bring them home. Please call me if you are interested.

Maureen Chesler 0418 221 452

Consumer Affairs Victoria
UNSAFE CURTAIN AND BLIND CORDS: HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE LIVES
Consumer Affairs Victoria is conducting a curtain and blind cord safety campaign. The key safety messages of this campaign are:
• Loose curtain and blind cords can strangle children. Keep them out of reach so children are out of danger.
• Get a free safety kit from Consumer Affairs Victoria - visit consumer.vic.gov.au or call 1300 55 81 81.
Hi everyone,

A couple of vacancies still exist on the Parents’ Association committee, and I would encourage anyone interested to contact me to discuss the requirements in more details.

Firstly, we urgently need someone to take on the role of School Council Liaison. This person would be required to attend both Parents’ Association and School Council meetings (both held once a month), take the minutes at the PA meetings and both forward these through to School Council and present a summary of them at the School Council meeting. This person is essentially the go-between for these two groups as Parents’ Association is a subcommittee of School Council. Ideally the role would be taken on by someone who has previously been on Parents’ Association and understands the workings of the committee.

Secondly, it would be terrific if someone could take on the Second Hand Uniform shop, which is usually open just once a week on a Friday afternoon, around 3:15 – 3:45pm. I will be sending out a request soon for helpers to open the shop each week, in much the same way we run Yard Duty and Icypoles. If anyone is interested in coordinating this roster (not a time-consuming role!) please contact me.

CLASSROOM CUISINE

Don’t forget Friday, February 26, is our trial day for online lunch ordering, which is already a great success at most of the other schools in the area. Lunch orders will be delivered to the canteen in two drops, just prior to recess and again prior to lunch. A representative from both Classroom Cuisine and Parents’ Association will be on hand to assist with deliveries to classrooms, but each class will need to send someone to collect the orders. This system is being trialled due to demand and feedback from parents. Orders are taken online only at www.classroomcuisine.com.au - simply follow the step-by-step process.

Please note:

This does not replace Special Lunches!!! Our first Special Lunch for the year will be Friday, March 19 and a request for helpers will go out with this week’s notices.

Apologies to Grade 3 who have an excursion on the trial date however the date had to be set last year. There will be another opportunity early in Term 2!

Have a great week,
Carolyn Currie
President, Parent’s Association
Email: carolyncurrie@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0438 898 904

WEBSITE NEWS

Lost, misplaced or never arrived home forms can be downloaded from the School’s website. Find notices that went home with the Newsletter under Newsletter, and all other notices under Forms.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking will start on Tuesday 23 February this year. Prep parents interested in School Banking with the Commonwealth Bank can collect an application kit from the School Office.

PARKING NEAR OUR SCHOOL

Please take every precaution to follow parking and traffic regulations when dropping off and collecting your children from school. Most importantly, we want to ensure the safety of all the children. Staff on duty are often surprised by some traffic behaviour observed near our school. Please put safety before convenience.

Also children using the School Crossing are reminded that they must wait for Andrew, our Crossing Supervisor’s instructions, before stepping onto the road.

Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 26 February 2010 for the first instalment.

EMA application forms are available from the school office.
INFORMATION BASKET
Copies of this information are available in the basket at the front office:

- Ashburton Community Festival Sunday 28 Feb 10am - 4.30pm
- Ashgrove Calisthenics Club now recruiting new team members. Ph. Bev 9807 9419 Classes held on Tues and Weds at Ashburton Uniting Church. Children’s and adults’ classes available.
- Hawthorn Hockey Club are taking registrations on Monday 22 Feb from 4.45 - 5.45pm at the club house on Auburn Rd, Hawthorn. Inquiries contact Karen Mackey on 0412 950 803 or kmackey@vic.chariot.net.au
- Recreational Gymnastics 2010 at Korowa Girls’ School - every Tuesday 3.45 - 5.00pm, 5 - 12 yr. olds Contact Tatiana on 0413 462 305 or 9585 6714.
- Glen Iris District Basketball Club’s winter registrations are now open. Please email the Club at glenirisdistrict@gmail.com or visit our website at www.waverleybasketball.com/glenirisdistrict. “Go Scorpions!”
- Ashwood Netball Club (A.N.C.) is currently looking for junior & senior players to play in the 2010 Winter competition. If you would like more information phone Maree Egan on 9504 2414 or 0411 444 431.
- Parents thinking about returning to work or study - an additional course will be held in Box Hill. Ph.AIEC 9895 1666 or email soliver@aeic.asn.au
- Australian Girls’ Choir and Aus Girls’ Dance - phone 9859 6499 for more information
- Children’s Performing Company of Australia for children aged 5 - 18 years will be running Try-Out sessions btwn 13 - 21 Feb. For more info visit www.cpca.com.au or ph. 9384 1644

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.

GIPS Uniform Shop
Opening hours for 2010
- Every Monday starting 1 February from 8.30am until 10.00am
- Every Friday starting 5 February from 3.00pm until 4.00pm

WITH THIS NEWSLETTER
- Special Lunch Help request (white, eldest)

2010 TERM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 February to 26 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12 April to 25 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12 July to 17 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 October to 17 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2011 TERM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 February to 8 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>27 April to 1 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18 July to 23 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 October to 22 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BABYSITTING
My name is Elise, I’m an ex-Glen Iris student currently in Year 12 at Strathcona. I’m available as a baby sitter. I have experience with babies, toddlers and older children. If you would like a baby sitter please give me a call.
Ph. 9885 5843 or 0412 593 885