Dear Parents,

Go Sophie!
This coming weekend, Sophie, 4K, will compete in the National Cross Country Championships as part of the Victorian State Team. I know that our entire school community joins me in congratulating Sophie on her achievements so far, and wishing her well for the competition in Canberra. Good luck, Sophie! All of us at Glen Iris are so proud of you.

Yesterday, the children joined in “Wear a Hat for Sophie” day by wearing a hat of their choice to school and making a gold coin donation. This activity raised over $370 to support Sophie in the National Championships. Thank you to all those who participated. Raffle tickets to support the State Cross Country team are available for sale at the Office and at the House Athletics on Thursday.

House Athletics Carnival
The House Athletics Carnival, previously postponed due to inclement weather, is scheduled to be conducted tomorrow. Again, the weather report is suggesting showers as the newsletter goes to print. In the event of any change of arrangements, parents will be informed as early as possible through the school website. If we must again cancel the event, teachers will conduct trials for the School Athletics Team at school, in stages, in the following days. We anticipate the House Athletics being conducted at Duncan McKinnon Reserve in Murrumbeena. Let’s cross our fingers for fine weather.

Unfortunately, Robyn Floyd and I are unable to attend the Athletics this week. We have a long standing commitment to the Boroondara Principals’ Conference from Wednesday to Friday that was planned and paid for many months ago. It is important to our school that both events go ahead. I know that staff, children and parents will do a terrific job organising and participating in the day. Go Raven, Ferndale, Nettleton and Gardiner!
Level 4 Camp
Last week, 90 children, 7 staff and 4 parents attended the Level 4 Camp at Camp Coonawarra near Stratford in East Gippsland. Despite cold, wet weather, the group completed and enjoyed the full program of activities. Thanks to our dedicated staff and parents who gave up their time to provide such a worthwhile experience for the children: Melissa Costa, Emily Burgess, Rachel Pitson, Meg Neal, Shanae Hill, Barb Maclarn, Shelley Morrison, Ian Griffiths, Michael Georgiades, Ray Carrasco and Illias Mastoris.

Enrolment 2012
We have reached the time of the year when the school makes important decisions regarding our school structure and staffing for the following year. If you know that your child will commence school at Glen Iris in 2012, and you haven’t already completed their enrolment details, or, if you know that your child will not return to Glen Iris in 2012, please assist us by notifying the Office in writing. This will help us enormously to plan effectively for 2012.

Instructional Rounds
Last Thursday, our school hosted an Instructional Rounds visit from local principals, assistant principals and regional staff to observe our numeracy program at Glen Iris. Instructional Rounds are a school improvement strategy where other professionals are invited into a school to observe and provide feedback on a particular area. Over the past two years, the staff have worked strenuously to develop and build a first rate Numeracy program throughout the school. We have reviewed and refined the content and planning, program delivery, student assessment, additional assistance and extension aspects of the program. The feedback from the group was that there was significant evidence of a consistent, whole school approach to the teaching of Numeracy. There was also significant evidence of direct teacher instruction, the use of ICT, teachers working with small focus groups, students working in ability groups and resources being readily available to support student learning. There are, of course, other things we will continue to improve. However, the progress made to date by committed teachers is something for us to celebrate.

Building Project
Our building project continues to move forward steadily as the new block of classrooms is beginning to take shape and the central area is being prepared for landscaping. With our

Buildings and Environment committee from School Council, I have been meeting with the contractors to finalise these plans. One matter to resolve at the moment is the reinstating of the Level 3 play equipment. We have sought advice from the company that installed the equipment, and shortly, a decision will be reached as to how to best re-establish play equipment for our Grades 3 and 4 students. Part of the plans for the central area include a new sand pit and environmental area with raised vegetable gardens, composting, potting tables, hot house and a chicken shed. The works are due for completion in mid October.

Parent Opinion Survey
Each year, we conduct a Parent Opinion survey to gather feedback as to the strengths and opportunities for improvement at our school. A randomly selected group of families receive the survey which we ask to have returned to school in a sealed envelope. If your family receives the survey this year, we would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete and return it. We value your feedback and various groups within the school community are then able to use your input to guide their plans and activities. We are keen to hear what you think we do well and those areas you would like to see developed.

Travel Plan for Glen Iris
Thank you to those parents who have already offered to be involved is assisting us to develop a travel plan for the school community. Following a recent meeting with the traffic engineer from Boroondara Council, some immediate actions were proposed.

- The pedestrian signal poles outside the school have been programmed for repainting in red and white stripes.
- The children’s crossing at Ashburton Rd, near Glen Iris Rd, will have an extended “No Stopping” zone installed along the south side to improve sight lines for pedestrians.
- An application for electronic speed limit signs will be made to VicRoads.
- Council’s Local Laws will inspect and enforce Road Rules as part of ongoing school inspections.
- The “No Parking” signs along the Glen Iris Rd frontage of the school will be amended to read “No Parking, 2 minutes, 8.30 - 9.30am, 3.00 - 4.00pm, School Days”. The “No Parking” restrictions are specifically for drop-off and pick up only. You have two minutes to complete the pick up and drop off and must remain with your
vehicle at all times.
The Council representative explained the details of the “No Parking” zone which I was surprised to learn is confined to stopping for only 2 minutes and drivers are not permitted to leave their cars. This is important information for drivers and we hope the added detail assists with keeping the area moving so others can also collect their children.

School Car Park
As previously explained, the gates to the small school carpark are opened to assist a family requiring wheelchair access. Please do not park in a manner that blocks the entrance or use it as a turning point. Also, children are asked not to play in the carpark area before or after school as vehicle access will be required. Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Yours Sincerely
Meredith Carracher

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Lunchtime activities in our new spaces
Our new spaces are a hive of activity. Activities designed to offer opportunities for students to pursue creative indoor activities as an alternative to outdoor games are happening at lunchtimes.
Monday with Ms. Floyd: Board games - the Promotions Team have some new games and some old favourites. Limited to 25 students - any age.
Mrs. Garrett has been assisting also.

Wednesdays with Miss Black: Lego Challenges hosted by the Grade 4s.

Wednesdays with Miss Williams and Mrs. Wilson: The Knitters’ Club for students who’d like to learn to knit.

Thursday Choir with Mrs. Van der Jagt.

Reading Challenge Dates Update
GIPS Reading Challenge ends 14 September. No data can be entered after this date.
October/November: Certificates issued to students. Congratulations to the 50 students who have completed the Challenge.

Robyn Floyd

AUSTRALIAN GIRLS’ CHOIR
Any girls from Grades 2-6 who are interested in auditioning for the Australian Girls Choir, must collect a form from the office. The return slip will need to be filled out and returned to Mrs Van der Jagt, prior to the day of audition. The audition day will be Thursday 25 August, at lunchtime

THE GIPS FAMOUS FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST IS BACK!
Thursday 1 September 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 Father’s Day.


Bookings close: Friday 19 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.)

Looking forward to a great morning!

Thanks,
Penny Ashby, Amanda Parsons & Viv Mason

This week (13-21 August) is National Science Week. At GIPS we will be celebrating Science Week later in the term. Until then here are a few cool experiments to try at home, with Mum or Dad’s permission of course.

slime: corn flour, water and food colouring (optional), mix your corn flour with water until it resembles slime. Now try and determine if it is a liquid or a solid.

floating and sinking: lots of different materials (corks, straws, playdough, etc.) make a boat out of all your different materials and see if it floats or sinks. If it sinks see if you can change the design to make it float or if it floated see if you can change something and make it sink.

colourful sugar: 4 teaspoons sugar, 20 teaspoons water, food colouring and a bowl. Stir the sugar into the water until it dissolves (disappears). Add a few drops of food colouring and stir. Leave the bowl in a warm sunny spot for a few days and watch what happens. Emma Black
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Copies of this information are available at the office:

- “big5sports” - AFL, Netball, Hockey, Basketball & Soccer - Victorian camps during the Sept/Oct school holidays. For more information ph. 9882 2823 or visit www.big5sports.com.au
- Gift Vouchers for Step Into Life available from the School Office. (Provided by school parent.)
- Disability Employment Support Worker - Waverley Helpmates, an innovative community based employment and training program is urgently seeking a part time casual support worker. For more information ph. 9807 1155 or 0409 147 371.

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.

SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM

SCHOOL NURSE VISIT

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 purpose of the visit 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 9265 2400.

Parents of students (other than Prep students) who wish their child to be seen by the school nurse need to complete a Referral form that is available at the school office. This completed Referral form needs to be returned to the school office by 2 September 2011.

WORKING BEE ALERT

Our next Working Bee will be our Spring Spruce Up on Sunday 11 September from 10am - 1pm. Further details will follow, but please put it in your diary now.

Barbara McKinnon, Convenor, Buildings and Environment Committee

Solar Panels for GIPS

If you would like to be part of a working group investigating solar options for our school, please e m a i l B a r b a r a M c K i n n o n: barbara.mckinnon@bigpond.com

Our first meeting would be the first week of September at a mutually convenient time, so please register your interest and availability now.
Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their support.

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