From The Principal

THANK YOU
A big thank you to parents and students who participated in the Working Bee on Saturday. Thanks to Ilias Mastoris, Convenor of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, for his work in preparation and planning for the day. Thanks also to all of the families who assisted during the afternoon.

A special mention to Gary Bennett who co-ordinated the replacing of the sleepers outside the Prep rooms which proved to be more challenging than any of us could have imagined. Parents swept, tidied and worked tirelessly to clean up our school environment. We also had a band of parents working in our Library, beginning the process of developing displays based on a Christmas theme and a celebration of Literature. It was also terrific to see some of our students lending a hand.

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<th>November 2012</th>
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| **Wednesday 21** | • Prep 2013 Meet The Teacher Night 7.00 - 8.00pm
| | • School Council 7.30pm
| **Thursday 22** | • Graduation Photo 9.00am
| | • ICT Conference 9.30am
| **Friday 23** | • Final Take-Off Session
| | • Year 1 Games Night
| | • Year 2 Games & Sleepover
| **Friday 30** | • Prep Botanic Gardens Excursion
| | • Fiesta

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| **Monday 3** | • Christmas Services (9.15am & 10.00am)
| | • Award Assembly (2.50pm)
| | • Soiree
| **Tuesday 4** | • Parents’ Association AGM 9.00am
| **Wednesday 5** | • SRC Disco
| | • Grade 1 Zart Art Excursion
| **Thursday 6** | • Grade 2 Zart Art Excursion
| **Monday 10** | • Grade 3 Art Excursion
| | • Graduation Rehearsal
| **Tuesday 11** | • Grade 4 Art Excursion
| **Thursday 13** | • MSAC Level 4 Excursion
| **Monday 17** | • Grade 6 Graduation
| **Wednesday 19** | • Year 5 Leadership Day
| | • Grade Parties
| | • Year 6 Cuckoo Lunch
| **Friday 21** | • Last day of Term
| | • Assembly
| | • 1.30pm Dismissal

It is also fantastic to see our current Prep parents providing refreshments for our new preps parents each Friday whilst their children are attending Take-Off sessions. Tonight is the Prep Information evening where parents meet the 2013 prep teachers. This provides an opportunity for the school to communicate the arrangements for beginning
school in 2013, ensuring that the start of school is as smooth as possible.

Yesterday I ventured down to Bialik Sports Centre to watch GIPS students in the Swimming Carnival. The noisy and humid conditions added to the excitement of the day with students trying their very best to swim the fastest possible. Thank you to Mr Jamie Davis (PE Teacher), years 3 – 6 staff and volunteer parents who all helped to make the day run efficiently. Well done to all our swimmers. This Friday Mr Davis leaves GIPS to venture overseas- we wish him well and thank him for his work in facilitating PE classes and all the extra curricula events that the PE position entails (swimming carnivals, athletics, basketball clinics, sports leadership program and so on). He will be replaced by Ms Christine Hallam for the remainder of the year.

A reminder that due to the current industrial action some students will be receiving progression points only in their report. Affected students will be bringing home a letter shortly explaining the rationalisation around this action and we acknowledge community support. Specialist reports will also be implicated with PE, Performing Arts and LOTE not including teacher comments. If you wish for further information regarding this action please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**CYBER SAFETY**

Recently we have had a few issues where students have provided personal details on internet sites. This has become apparent as students register their interest for receiving our school newsletter. When we are aware of this we speak to the students involved.

Behaving safely online means:

- Protecting one’s own privacy and personal information;
- Protecting the privacy of others (this can be sharing personal information or images, which in most cases is unlawful);
- There should not be any secrets in using the Internet. Children should be just as happy using the Internet in the living room and should not be hiding elsewhere in the house to use it;
- Children should only use the Internet for the purpose that they agreed with you before each session and these sessions should be monitored;
- Being proactive in letting someone know if there is something that is 'not quite right'. At home this would be a parent or guardian, at school a teacher;
- Ensuring a suitable ‘net nanny’ or monitoring system has been activated on your computer;
- Only interact with people you know and trust in real life when using the Internet.

Of course, these principles of safety and responsibility apply to the use of the Internet both at home and at school.

The virtual world of the Internet involves many risks. Schools utilise and discuss positive strategies that help to minimise these risks. However, parents also have a key role to play in keeping children safe whilst online. For example, FaceBook accounts should only be made available to children above the age of 13. Please try hard to resist the ‘nagging’ and the old saying, “but everyone else has an account”. This of course is not true! Further information can be accessed @ [http://australia.gov.au/topics/it-and-communications/internet](http://australia.gov.au/topics/it-and-communications/internet)

We are looking forward to attending and hearing about the following extra-curricula events in the next couple of weeks:

- School Sleepover
- ICT Convention
- 2013 Prep Parents ‘Get to know your teacher’
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a payment made by the Federal Government to assist families with education costs. To be eligible for EMA, parents and guardians are required to have a valid Health Care or Pension Card. Please note the changes that have been made to EMA in 2013:

The EMA is being restructured to increase the focus on direct support to parents. Prep and Year 7 students will also receive a higher EMA payment.

The changes to the EMA starting in 2013 include:
- EMA payments to parents increased from:
  - $117.50 to $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
  - $117.50 to $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
  - $235 to $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
  - $235 to $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

School-based EMA payments will be discontinued ($117.50 per primary school student; $235.00 per secondary school student).

Changes to the EMA will be effective from the start of the 2013 school year.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August). Payments will be made by direct deposit to the parent or the school, or by cheque to the parent which will be posted to the school.

A reminder about EMA will be sent home with end of year information in a few weeks.

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LITERACY HELPERS

Attention all parents who have volunteered to cover books.

All take home and guided reading books are now ready to be picked up for contacting.

Please report to the office staff when collecting books. The contact is supplied and there are bags and boxes to transport the books.

Please remember to sign out the books and sign them back in again upon return.

We look forward to your children enjoying these wonderful new resources!

Many thanks for your assistance.

Helga Shaw
Literacy Coordinator

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First Aid

In December we will be sending home Action Plans for Anaphylaxis, Allergies and Asthma to update our records. We ask that parents return them to their class teacher no later than Wednesday 19 December, 2012. A gentle reminder that it is the parents’ responsibility to ensure Epipens or medication are within their use by date and action plans are signed by the doctor annually.

Thank you
First Aid Co-ordinators
Claire Sutherland and Natasha Williams

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Chickens love Christmas too!

We are looking for a family to take care of Salt and Pepper over the school holidays. Their coop is fully transportable and can fit on a trailer. You will be provided with plenty of food, they are very easy to look after and if you let them roam in your garden they can help keep the bug population down.

As a reward for looking after them you will receive 6 weeks’ worth of fresh free range eggs.

If you are willing please let Natasha Williams (1W) know ASAP but no later than December 7th.

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**HOUSE SWIMMING**
On Tuesday 20 November GIPS had its annual swimming carnival at Bialik College. Students from grades 3 - 6 competed in butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle swimming events. A great day was had by all, with Gardiner being the overall house winner and Raven taking out the spirit award for the great cheering. Well done to all competitors and those who were lucky enough to win a ribbon. Congratulations to those who finished 1st or 2nd in the 50m events and will now represent GIPS at the district swimming next year.
Most importantly, a massive thank you to all parents and staff who helped out with the event as it would not be successful without you.

*Jamie Davis*

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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**
Copies of this information are available at the office:

- 1st Glen Iris Scout Group - “Find Boroondara Booklet” $30, 300 coupons in booklet (all local). All enquiries & orders 0402 826 786 or email: findboroondara@gmail.com
- Futsal skills (indoor soccer) - the Cobras Futsal Club is hosting skills sessions for male and female participants with a disability who are ambulant. No prior experience needed. For 5-12 years old & 13+ years old. Ph. 9720 5944 or email: aaa3@erls.net
- The Christine Ayres school of Irish Dancing is opening up beginner classes at the 1st Hartwell Scout Hall, Trent St, Burwood on Mondays & Saturdays. Bookings for classes in 2013 are opening now, ph. 0410 410 932, 0401 162 085 or Ayres.conor@abc.net.au
- Kundalini Yoga Classes - Wednesdays 9.30am - 10.45am, 123 Auburn Rd, Hawthorn - special offer for GIPS parents Ph. 0412 264 092 or r4man@bigpond.net.au
- Cara Belle School of Dance - local classes, ages 3 - 17 For information about 2013 classes ph.0421 232 990 or visit www.carabelle.com.au

Advertisements are placed according to relevance and interest to the school community and are not a reflection of the school’s interest or beliefs.

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**Parents’ Assoc’n News**

- Just a reminder about the up and coming Parents’ Association AGM which will be held on Tuesday 4 December at 9am in the staffroom. If you are keen to join a great group of people and help make a difference in our school community, please feel free to give me a call on 0430 980 418 and I’ll be happy to let you know more.
- Our next social event is the Family Fiesta on Friday 30 November from 5.30pm - 7.00pm on the oval. This will be a BYO picnic with entertainment. More information to come.

*Liz Fowler, President*  
mob 0430 980 418

**TODAY’S NOTICES**

- Grade 5 Jacket Printing (white, reply slip)
- Grade 5 Social Get-together (pink)

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**SENIORS’ STORIES WANTED**
I am Alex from the GIPS First Lego League (FLL) team. In the last Newsletter we requested stories about senior citizens’ lives when they were young. We have unfortunately not received many responses and urgently require more. If you have any stories from seniors (age 60+), would you please give them to us by emailing the school at glen.iris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or dropping them in at the office. Thank you for your help.

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**THE GREAT FEST**

*Hartwell Primary School*  
24th November 2012  
1pm - 8pm
ICT Conference - Computer LAB
9.30am-10.30am
Thursday 22 November

Parents are invited to attend our student-led ICT Conference organised by the SALT ICT Team to showcase how we are integrating digital technologies into the curriculum. Students will talk about the technologies used in their classes and Robyn Floyd will give an overview of the school vision for ICT.
To all Grade 5 families
PSW are offering 5% off all garments for the month of November. Grade 5 parents don't forget to buy or order your garments ASAP from PSW so they can be handed in for printing.

GIPS CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES
RE teachers invite families to participate in the GIPS Christmas Church Services on:

Monday 3 December, 2012, in the Church Hall
Prep - Gr.2 - 9.15am
Grs. 3 - 6 - 10.00am
Carols, stories and the Empty Christmas Tree

Each year we ask the children to contribute to the Christmas Hampers distributed by Camcare to local disadvantaged families to help make a special Christmas meal. Some suggested goods are:
- tinned ham, tinned fruit and vegetables, tinned salmon, pasta sauce (no baked beans)
- tinned Christmas puddings and Christmas cakes, packets of mince pies and shortbread
- sweet or savoury biscuits, chips, cordial, soft drinks, fruit juice, coffee, tea, Milo or Quik

If the children would prefer to bring small presents rather than food, the only request is that the present is not wrapped.

The gifts are collected as children enter the hall and a “symbolic goodies” basket is placed under the empty Christmas Tree at the appropriate time during the service. CRE teachers deliver these goods to Camcare after the service.

Margaret Duncan - CAMCARE & Judy Savige - Convener CRE Teachers