Dear Parents,

On Tuesday, the Glen Iris Primary School Swimming Team won the Glen Iris District Swimming Carnival at the Harold Holt pool. Competing against six other schools, and cheered on by a band of enthusiastic parents and staff, the team of 34 children from Grades 4 – 6 won ribbons in almost every event. This is a wonderful achievement and one that the school has not achieved for more than thirteen years. It was with much pride that I watched the children compete with great endeavour and sportsmanship, and unite as a team to encourage and inspire each other. Fifteen students will now continue on to compete in the next division. Thank you to the parents who supported the event and special thanks to our Physical Education teacher, Andrew Cavell, for his excellent organisation and leadership of the team. See page 2 for Andrew’s report. Go GIPS!!!

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Recently, some improvements to the roadway outside the school have caused some inconvenience to families at drop off and pick up time. The work on Glen Iris Road is almost complete. On Thursday 23 February, drainage works will commence in Montague Avenue at the rear of the school. These works are expected to be completed within four weeks. Further, I am informed by Boroondara Council that the laneway from Glen Iris Road to Barina Road will be clear and available very soon.

SCHOOL REVIEW 2012

Every four years, schools are required to undertake a school review to determine their achievements in the previous four years and to set goals and outcomes for the next four years. This year is a review year for Glen Iris. In brief, this entails the school community conducting a self evaluation of our work in the areas of Student Learning, Student Engagement and Wellbeing and Student Pathways and Transitions. This term, there will be several opportunities for parents, staff and students to reflect on the achievements of the school and suggest areas for development. Later in the year, an external reviewer appointed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, will examine our results and recommendations to verify this work. It is an exciting time when we can work together to reflect on our achievements and set the direction for the future of our school. The staff and School Council have set up teams to focus on the School Review, students will be involved in class discussions and special workshops, and parents will be invited to share their thoughts at forums later this term. Details
of these forums will be announced shortly. I am looking forward to working with the community on this project.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

At the close of nominations for the four parent vacancies on School Council, four nominations had been received. I am pleased to declare Ivan Mellado, Peter Holmes, Ilias Mastoris and Jack Risos duly elected for a two year term 2012 / 2013. Ivan, Peter and Jack are current members of the Council. Ilias is new to School Council and has offered to convene the Buildings and Environment subcommittee. Thank you to these parents for their commitment to and support of our school.

**MATHLETICS**

Great news! Mathletics is coming to Glen Iris Primary School for all students from Prep – Gr.6! The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has endorsed this online mathematics program for use in Victorian schools. To benefit our student, GIPS would like to take up this heavily subsidised program to expand the school’s numeracy program. Mathletics is a web-based program that covers all aspects of the Prep to Year 12 mathematics curriculum and can be tailored to suit individual classes and students. Mathletics can be used by students at home and at school. The Mathletics program will be used to further enhance students learning of numeracy in conjunction with the current daily numeracy program. Teachers will incorporate Mathletics in classroom programs, set homework tasks and use the program for independent learning. A notice will be sent home soon asking families to register their children for Mathletics at a huge discount. We are hoping every family will take up this opportunity and are able to assist families who have difficulty in participating in the program.

**PURPLE POLO TEE SHIRTS**

There has been some confusion regarding the purple school polo tee shirts that are part of the school sports uniform. These shirts are intended for students in Grade 5 and 6 competing in interschool sports competitions such as weekly sport and District sports carnivals. The shirts are also available for students in Grade 4 who are representing the school in District sporting events such as District cross country, athletics or swimming carnivals or competitions at a Zone, Regional or State level. The shirts are not intended for day to day school wear.

**WORKING BEE**

A reminder to parents that our first working bee for 2012 will be held on Saturday 3 March. Please consider coming along to lend a hand with the various maintenance tasks that need attention. Please see the notice coming home today for further details and to register your attendance. Thanks to Ilias Mastoris, dad to Perri (2S) and Chris (5/6B), for agreeing to convene our Buildings and Environment group in 2012.

**SCHOOL CARPARK**

For safety reasons, the small school car park is out of bounds to children at all times. A small number of families have made special arrangements to use the car park at drop off and pick up times due to illness, disability or injury. Vehicles are moving in and out of the car park at these times and it is unsafe for students and families to walk through this area. Please assist us by only using the pedestrian entrances to the school when arriving and leaving the school grounds. The car park gate is left open to assist the families who need access to this area.

Regards
Meredith Carracher

**DISTRICT SWIM CARNIVAL**

On Tuesday 21 February the Glen Iris Swim Team represented our school at the District Swim Carnival at the Harold Holt Pool. We competed against six other schools - Ashburton, Camberwell South, Hartwell, Solway, St.Michael’s and St.Dominic’s. All 34 competitors gave it their best and I am very proud of every student’s efforts on the day. Out of 34 competitors, 32 finished in the top four in at least one of their races.


The final result of the day was Glen Iris on 138 points, finishing in FIRST PLACE! This is the first time Glen Iris has won this event in at least 13 years. A big thank you to all the students who
competed, the parents who assisted on the day and also Miss Burgess for organising the students on the day.
GO GIPS! Andrew Cavell

Special Religious Education
Special Religious Education classes are held on Thursdays for 25 minutes delivered by accredited instructors, approved by the Minister for Education. All have a Working with Children Check, registration, and training. The provision of special religious instruction in Victorian government schools is legislated in Section 2.2.11 of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (the Act).

The Department engages ACCESS Ministries to deliver Religion in Life® Christian Religious Education, which is an agreed syllabus representing 12 Christian denominations. Students receiving such instruction are not grouped for SRI according to denomination, but taught in their usual classes. Classes may be combined if the group of students wishing to participate in a particular class is small. In this instance the other students would work with another teacher during this time.

What do students who do not attend SRI do? Students not attending SRI will have the opportunity to consolidate classroom work either set by the teacher or while working in another class of the same grade level. No new work is introduced during this time.

Can my child attend one of the other faiths I ticked? Some parents ticked all the faith boxes in the DEECD form sent home last week. All of these faiths have a year-long curriculum approved by the Department. We can only offer instruction in the faiths for which we have accredited volunteers. At Glen Iris Primary Access Ministries is available.

Giving and withdrawing consent. Parents may change their consent and grant or withdraw consent for their child’s participation in SRI by notifying the principal in writing. It is not necessary to renew or withdraw consent each year. The form that was filled in last week covers your child’s years at Glen Iris Primary School.

For more information on ACCESS ministries and to assist you in making an informed decision on behalf of your child you can download their Parent Overview and Sample Curriculum. http://www.accessministries.org.au/creteachers/info-for-parents

Robyn Floyd

ASHBURYTON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

REMINDER: GIPS School Choir and Rock Bands will be performing on the Ward Stage from 12.30pm - 1.00pm. If your family is at the Festival this weekend, make sure you don’t miss these performances.
ICT at Glen Iris Primary School

Last year students hosted an ICT Conference for interested parents. Many parents requested further information on the ICT programs uses at GIPS.

- Creative Book Builder – creating photo ebooks - an itunes APP for iPad ($4.49)
- Microsoft Autocollage - DEECD provides software to create a photo collage free for students. This can be purchased for home use via internet sites.
- Pivotstick Animator – was used by the ICT Leadership Team in a very successful whole school competition.
- Dance Mat - a fun colourful website with animation and games introducing touch typing to children aged 7 to 11. Available at www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing

Robyn Floyd

WALKATHON

The 2012 Walkathon has been scheduled for Tuesday 20 March at Nettleton Park!! Sponsorship forms went out last week, so get your walking shoes on and ask your family, friends & neighbours to sponsor you.

It will be a fun day, with prizes for those who raise the most money in their year level. We will also need parent help on the day between 1.45pm – 2pm.

Kids love having their parents partake in any event so, if you are able to, please help make this event a success. ‘Parent Help’ forms need to be returned to the school office by Tuesday 13 March.

Lego Club

A new Lego Club is starting at GIPS. It will run during the second half of lunch on Thursdays for children in grades Prep to Two. Lego Club will be held in the Library. You don’t have to come every week if you don’t want to.

We are looking to expand our Lego collection and if anyone has any spare Lego we would love to adopt it.

If you have any questions please see Miss Black. So come along and have a go.

WORKING BEE

Our first Working Bee for 2012 will be held on Saturday 3 March from 12.30 - 4.30pm. Please include this date in your diaries. Parents are encouraged to help in any capacity they can. Tasks to be allocated include cleaning & sweeping, oiling/painting, and some digging. Work boots are encouraged. Outdoor brooms, spades and wheelbarrows are always welcome. A sausage sizzle will be provided from about 4pm for children and helpers.

Ilias Mastoris

NetSetGo @ GIPS

Netball Australia Junior Netball Program

NOW OPEN TO STUDENTS GR.1 - 4

The San Remo NetSetGo! Program gives participants the opportunity to learn basic skills involved in Netball via activities, minor games and modified matches. The program is for students in Grades 1 to 4, cost is $50 which includes a participant pack with backpack, ball and accessories, valued at $20, and $30 for Netball Victoria Membership which includes injury insurance.

The program will start on Tuesday 28 February from 3.45 - 4.30pm, for 8 - 10 weeks. Students must not be left alone at this activity.

Registration forms are available at the School Office. Payment can be made either by cash or cheque made out to Ashburton Netball Club. Registrations must be completed and payment made at the Office by Monday 27 February, 3.30pm.

Parent involvement - any parents with some experience in netball, willing to assist with the program, should contact Amanda Parsons on 0438 562 850.

Netball Australia Junior Netball Program
### Education Maintenance Allowance 2012

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent; and
- submit your application to the school by the due date

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1 February 2012 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2012).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2012 for the first instalment and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $235 for primary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2012 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment.

**EMA application forms are available from the school office.**

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

- Ashgrove Calisthenics Club - now recruiting for 2012 from 3yrs to adult. All classes are held at the Ashburton Uniting Church Hall, Ashburn Grove, Ashburton. Ph. Bev 9807 9419
- “Parenting Anxious Children” Community Education Seminar organized by the Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria at the Balwyn Library, Tuesday 6 March, 7.30 - 9.30pm. Registrations essential. Ph. 9886 9233 / 1300 ANXIETY or visit www.arvcic.org.au
- big5sports - Super Sports Camps - Football, Netball and Basketball. Ph.1300 787 071 or visit www.big5sports.com.au
- Cara Belle School of Dance for children aged 3 - 17. Held at the Glen Iris Community Center and at SACRE COEUR. Visit www.carabelle.com.au or ph. 0421 232 990
- “Concert for Ashburton” presented by the Salvation Army and Creativity Australia on Saturday 25 February at the Ashburton Uniting Church, 5 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton.
- Glen Iris District Basketball Club winter registrations are now open. Please go to www.trybooking.com/BEPV to register or for information email Glenirisdistrict.registrar@gmail.com. Registrations close on Sun 26 February.
- The Shrine of Remembrance is currently recruiting volunteer guides for our March training period, starting Friday 24 February. For more information visit http://www.shrine.org.au/support-the-shrine/become-a-volunteer or ph. 9661 8126
- The 7th Boroonadara Volunteer Expo - Weds 14 March at the Hawthorn Town Hall 2pm - 7pm
- Riversdale Soccer Club - Soccer Players Wanted currently registering players for the 2012 season. Ph. 0432 477 170 or contact us at registrations@riversdalesc.com.au
- Kids Cancer Research Trust Basketball Clinics - come and join Mark Walker a 3 time Australian and International 20 year professional basketball coach for a fun 1 hr clinic to raise much needed funds to battle childhood cancer. The clinic is aimed at 5 - 8 year olds and has a great mix of skills, modified games and lots of fun played on lowered rings so everyone can score a basket. There are opportunities to play in regular league games. Where: Hawthorn Secondary College (Melways 59 F3) When: Thursday 4.00 - 5.00pm Cost: $10 Contact Mark 0416 030 562 or Sheryl 0418 779 284
- Get Fit 2012 - Group Outdoor Fitness Training For Women - Ferndale Park, Glen Iris, small groups, certified 3 & 4 Personal trainer, $18 for first 1 hr session, 6 sessions for $90. Ph. Leanne 0417 524 183
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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 BANKING

- School Banking will start next week. Bank books need to be brought to school on Mondays and processing of books occurs at 8.45am on Tuesday morning.
- Prep parents interested in School Banking with the Commonwealth Bank can collect an application kit from the School Office.
Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their support.

Important Information for all new families to GIPS.

GIPS Newsletter is Digital

As part of GIPS’s commitment to being environmentally responsible, the School Newsletter is delivered in electronic form (PDF file) via the website rather than as hard copies. We are able to deliver better quality colour images and include electronic links for ease of accessing events, information and forms etc. The savings in terms of printer toner and paper add a huge cost benefit to the School, as well as reducing the carbon and paper consumption by our community which in turn is better for the environment. Many small efforts make big differences.

For each edition an email containing a hyperlink to the GIPS website will be sent out to school families which have registered via the website as a reminder when the latest newsletter is available. The newsletter can always be accessed from the website without registration. This school’s website is at:

http://www.gips.vic.edu.au

All personal information is stored securely and will only be used for school news and information services, and the system used complies with Australian Government Privacy Laws. If any family experiences difficulty in subscribing, please contact the School Office for assistance.

A few hard copies will be available at the Office.

TODAY’S NOTICES

- Acceptable Use Agreement for Ultranet, Internet & Digital Technologies. (White, all)
- Digital Technologies, Student Agreement & Permission Form. (Green, all, to be returned.)
- Parent/Teacher Interviews Online (Pink, all)
- Working Bee (Yellow, eldest, to be returned)
- Peppermint Parade Fundraiser (Eldest, to be returned)
- Scholastic Bookclub Order Forms (All)
- Mathletics (White, all, to be returned)

WANTED

Housekeeper wanted for a nice, local family: 2 - 3hrs, 3 days a week after school drop off. School holiday hrs negotiable. Washing and general household duties. Would suit stay at home mum. Contact: K on 0412 429 257

LOCAL HOUSE FOR RENT

3 Bedroom family home located in quiet street metres from park, walking distance to school. Available from middle of March. Contact Cam 0411 280 560 or Julie 0419 351 476

signature wellbeing

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Glen Iris Primary School thanks our sponsors for their support.

angle house

ORTHODONTICS

Angle House Orthodontics
7 Whitehorse Road Balwyn
9817 6427
anglehouseorthodontics.com.au
Saturday morning consultations available

important information for all new families to gips.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 TERM DATES</th>
<th>2013 TERM DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong></td>
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<td>3 February to 30 March</td>
<td>30 January to 28 March</td>
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<td><strong>Term 2</strong></td>
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<td>16 April to 29 June</td>
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<td><strong>Term 3</strong></td>
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<td>16 July to 21 September</td>
<td>15 July to 20 September</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
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<td>8 October to 21 December</td>
<td>7 October to 20 December</td>
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Ashburton Community Festival Sunday 26 February 2012

Take a trip ‘Back to the Future’

Ashburton – a vibrant ‘strip’ shopping centre, tucked in between Camberwell and Chadstone, is staging its 15th annual STREET FESTIVAL on Sunday 26 February. Ashburton Festival is also part of the 2012 Melbourne Sustainable Living Festival.

Festival highlights include:

- **Steam Train Rides** from 10am – 4pm between Camberwell & Ashburton.
- **Thomas the Tank Engine** (trackless train) rides
- **‘Back to the Future’ DeLorean car** (display)
- **Family bike ride**
- **Sustainable Suburban Living**
  - Ride to Festival – ‘Valet Park’ your Bike
  - Family Bike Ride
  - Garden demos including
    - worm farming, natural pest control, productive pot plants
  - Urban Bee Keeping & Ashburton Honey
- **Australia’s biggest Animal Farm** & best Snakebuster Reptile show
- **High Country Pony rides** with prize ride for family of 4
- **Working Dog demos**
- **Entertainment includes** - Bananas in Pyjamas, Police Showband, local musicians
- **‘Ab Fab’ Fashion makeover** for 5 local residents
- **Fabulous food & unique community food, craft, activity stalls & displays**

So, mark your calendar - Sunday February 26, Take to Ashburton High Street – Play, Eat. Enjoy the beat!

For a full program of events go to

**www.ashburtonshopping.com.au**

Further information call **0417 393 897**

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[logos for Ashburton, Boroondara, Sustainable Living Festival, Leader]