

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter featuring some of the happenings at GIPS.

EVENING ON THE GREEN

The Evening on the Green was very well attended by our parent community and enjoyed by all. A special thanks to Kelly Greaves and her team of helpers for the organisation and effort to provide such a fun social evening for our community. It was a great way to welcome in the new school year.

MATHS - PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

We had a fantastic turnout at the parent information evening last week to listen to Maths consultant, Michael Ymer, speak about how Maths is taught in the classroom. We had a lot of very positive feedback about the evening. We have again engaged Michael this year to work with our teachers

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Well done to the 37 students who represented GIPS at the District Swimming Carnival. Special mention to four students who have qualified for the Divisional Swimming Carnival and swam yesterday, Tuesday 6 March:

Damon L – came 2nd in freestyle and 1st in breaststroke, 9/10yrs

Mia V – came 5th in freestyle and 1st in backstroke, 11yrs

Sean P – 8th in freestyle and 3rd in breaststroke, 11yrs

Lachlan H – came 7th in backstroke, 12/13yrs.

A fantastic achievement by our swimmers! Both Damon and Mia have now qualified for the Regional Swimming carnival.

WORKING BEE

Our first Working Bee for this year was held on Sunday morning and it was great to see so many families coming along. Our school grounds are looking magnificent. Thank you to everyone for your hard work. We got through a terrific number of jobs and the willingness of all to pitch into even the most mundane tasks was marvelous. We cleared drains and gutters, swept and turned over sandpits, spread softfall, swept the synthi-turf, cleaned the walkways, pruned trees and hedges, picked up acorns, swept up leaves and cleaned the outside of classrooms. A special thankyou to Craig Ots-Maher for organising the work of the Building and Grounds again this year.

GIPS UTILITIES

We are very fortunate in the GIPS community that the students can be part of a school that has both a 100kL rainwater harvesting system and a 25kW solar PV electricity generation system. We have access to both of these as a result of the hard work, foresight and fundraising efforts of parents, staff and students of the recent past. Unfortunately, we have had some challenges over the last couple of years with both these systems. The good news is that we have now resolved these issues and we can look ahead to a more sustainable future at GIPS. During February at GIPS we saved over:

- 46 kL of fresh water by using collected rain water for the junior toilets
- 3,280 kWh of electricity by using solar power harvested from the library roof.

This represents savings of approximately:

- 50% of total water used
- 40% of total electricity used

Water use and solar generation are being continuously monitored. A link to the solar generation monitoring can be found at the bottom of the website, or [here](#).

Monitoring of our water usage will be live soon.

SCHOOL LEVIES

Thank you to the families who have been able to support our teaching and learning programs by contributing to our voluntary contributions: Library / ICT Fund, School Building Fund and Working Bee Fund. School levies are now being received at the school Office by cash, BPay, direct debit, cheque or credit card. Please phone the office if you need assistance.

CLASS PARENT REPS

Our class Parent Reps have been confirmed for the year and met last Friday. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to take on this role. The Class Reps have an important part to play in liaising with the classroom teacher and the parent group.

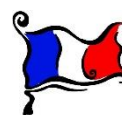
Communicating with our school community is very important in keeping everyone informed and engaged. This year we are trying to streamline our means of communication and will be investigating the use of the Compass portal and our school website as to the best means to disseminate information. Thanks to an initiative from Jane Lukins we have published a “snapshot” of what is currently used by the school to communicate with the GIPS school community. You can see this document [here](#).

SRC 2018

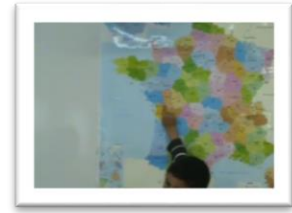
The members of the 2018 SRC will be presented with their badges at our next assembly. They have hit the ground running and have two planned activities this term. The first is being held in conjunction with the *National Take A Stand Against Bullying Day* which falls on Friday 16 March. The SRC are encouraging all students to participate in an anti-bullying poster competition. The winners for each category: Years 5/6, 3/4, and P-2, will be announced at the next school assembly. The posters created by all students will be displayed around the school to promote this important initiative.

The second activity is the *Helping Children to Colour Their World Program*. This program sends unwanted stationary to children around the world to aid them in their education.

FRENCH



The two Year 4 classes have started corresponding with a French class from Niort, a small town located in Western France. We have received the first videos from France, both in French and English. GIPS students have made a video in English, introducing themselves by choosing two pieces of information. They have also produced two group videos in



French, presenting their classes and teachers.

Beyond the benefits of hearing, seeing and using language in a genuine situation and for a real purpose, students will also become aware of cultural differences regarding school and other topics between the two countries. The Year 4 students are quite enthusiastic about the project, and so are their French correspondents!

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are on Monday 19 March. This year we have engaged School Pix to take the student photos and details can be found [here](#).

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL

A reminder to everyone to please obey the road rules and parking signage around the school. I understand that parking is difficult near the school, but I have received complaints from neighbours that cars are being parked across driveways and blocking their access. The circular driveway in front of the church can also be used as a "Kiss and Go" zone for parents to utilize.

CURRICULUM DAY - FRIDAY 9 MARCH

A final reminder that this Friday, the 9th of March, is a Curriculum Day and students are not required at school. Also Monday 12 March is a Public Holiday and the school will not be open.

Garry Collins
Principal