Dear Parents,

After an unseasonably warm May, it seems winter is now upon us. It is timely to remind families that unwell children do not benefit from the school day and their presence leads to the spread of the winter bugs we all try to avoid. Whilst we encourage regular school attendance, sick children should be cared for at home.

Progress Leader Grant - Vote For Glen Iris
The Parents' Association in particular Carolyn Ryan mum of Emily, Thomas and Charlie, has submitted an application for a community grant of $1,000 to assist in the repair and replacement of items of play equipment. As well as replacing the Grade 5/6 play equipment damaged by vandalism late in 2013, the Grade 1 and 2 equipment has required repairs and maintenance. Glen Iris is a finalist for the grant program conducted by the Progress Leader newspaper along with other schools and community groups. The outcome of the funding is determined through an online voting process which commenced on Monday, June 2nd. You can assist us by registering online at the website below. Family and friends are also welcome to vote. To vote, you must be over 18 years of age. Once registered, voters have 10 votes to allocate to the various finalists. No prizes for guessing where my 10 votes were allocated!


Boroondara Principals' Conference
Last week, Robyn Floyd and I attended the Boroondara Network Principals' Conference. The focus of the conference was "The Science of Wellbeing: Positively Charged: Leading Others through Optimism". The keynote speaker was Psychologist, Maria Ruberto. Her application of psychology is anchored by research in neuroscience and brain function - and framed by the science of optimism. Maria presented thought-provoking research into the science leading to mental wellbeing and the implications for educators. She promoted the theory of positive psychology that she calls the "study of what goes right". This theory is one we are exploring through our Student Wellbeing program at Glen Iris; one example being the Bounce Back program introduced this year. Resilience, a key feature of positive psychology, is a core value in our school. Positive psychology encourages optimism with a focus on what ‘s going well. As a staff, we start each of our weekly staff meetings asking that question..."What's going well?" and teachers use this statement to encourage children to focus on their strengths and successes. A premise behind this practice is that people, adults and children, respond to acknowledgement and praise rather than having a list of mistakes and shortcomings highlighted. An environment of positivity, gratitude and empathy allows us to meet the challenges we face and address these successfully. Maria presented research demonstrating the link between the language we hear and use and how it influences neural functioning. She suggests to increase an optimistic outlook, there should be a 3:1 ratio of optimistic v's pessimistic language. Glen Iris will continue to expand the impact of this theory in our school.
**Student Mid Year Reports**
Teachers are finalising students' mid-year reports at the moment. This is a lengthy and involved process requiring many hours of work. The reporting format is a mandated format for Victorian schools. Teachers aim to provide an informative summary of the student's achievements and progress over the first semester within this format. Our belief at Glen Iris is that there should be no surprises in a student's report as the assessment and reporting program incorporates many elements throughout the semester. Teachers who are concerned about a student's progress will have made contact with those families at an earlier stage to implement strategies to address the concerns. Whilst we are always interested in the grading a student receives on their report, of equal importance, I believe, are the gradings for "Effort" and "Classroom Behaviour". These areas indicate whether a student is working to their maximum potential. The A - E gradings are not included on the Prep / Foundation reports in Semester 1. There are plans within the Department of Education and Childhood Development to revise the reporting format with more flexibility for schools to introduce a format that meets the needs of their school community. There will be more information about this process in the future and I look forward to working with our families to consider the kind of report that best meets our needs. Student Reports will be sent home on Wednesday 25th June.

**Walk-a-thon**
The children enjoyed our annual walk-a-thon on Friday, May 23rd on a lovely sunny afternoon following a dreary morning. Finally, the sun shone on one of our outdoor events! Thanks to the Parents' Association, in particular Donna Polkinghorne and Vanessa Mackie and the many parents who assisted on the day, for the excellent organisation and smooth running of the event. The children displayed their enthusiasm and enjoyed a well-earned icy pole. I am hoping to be able to share with you all shortly a wonderful collection of photos taken at the walk-a-thon by Gavin Blue, dad of Harry (3M) and Archie (1J). The Blue family are new to Glen Iris and Gavin has offered to share his photographic talents with us. Thanks Gavin!

**Prep Enrolments 2015**
We have had strong interest for enrolment for Preps in 2015. I would ask current families with Prep children for next year to submit their enrolment form at the office as soon as possible to support our planning. If you know of other local families with children beginning school who intend to attend Glen Iris in 2015, could you please encourage them to enrol as soon as possible also. Families are always welcome to make an appointment with me for a school tour or to discuss their child's educational needs and many local families have taken up this opportunity in recent months.

**Working Bee**
A notice has gone home this week announcing our Term 2 Working Bee is being held on Saturday, June 14th. If you are able to attend, even for a short time, your support will be most appreciated. Buildings and Grounds convener, Gary Bennett, has a number of tasks planned that will be most easily achieved with a number of people pitching in. Hope to see you there.

**Annual Report to the School Community 2013**
The Annual Report to the School Community has been completed and endorsed by School Council. It is available for your interest on the school website.

**School Website**
We are continuing to experience technical difficulties with the website at the moment which are being managed by the host company, Sponsor Ed. This situation is being addressed as quickly as possible.

Yours Sincerely

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**END OF FINANCIAL YEAR**

To those parents who would still like to make tax deductible payments to our Library/ICT Fund and/or Building Funds, the cut off date is Wednesday 25th June at 3pm.

Thankyou for your contributions.
From the Assistant Principal

AP Matters:

Cybersafety: Research and Minecraft?

To help parents understand the platforms that children are interested in most the cyber[smart] website assists parents (www.cybersmart.gov.au). According to their latest research nearly 80% of eight to nine year olds are using social networking sites while one in four eight to eleven year olds are accessing the internet via their mobile phone. Perplexed about Minecraft go to: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents/About%20the%20technology/Minecraft.aspx

LABELING SECOND-HAND CLOTHING

Despite my girls watching me fastidiously label everything from tops to undies for various school and Guide camps, both sent their sons off to the same childcare centre in unlabelled pants. Nanna had bought the boys the same style (obviously on special!) but in different sizes. You guessed it - after nap time there was a clothing mix-up. The smaller grandson went home tripping in oversized pants while the larger grandson was squeezed into the tiny pair. Both mums were grumpy but with no sympathy from Nanna, who had bought them both clothing marker pens! This anecdote leads into the lost property dilemma of unnamed clothing or rather ‘named-with-some-one-else’s name’ clothing. We often have up to 20 items, with the names of students who have long left the school, languishing in lost property. Valiantly the lost property monitors try to find their owners but inevitably some end up back in the second hand uniform shop. Please cut off old labels and re-label second-hand uniforms.

150th ANNIVERSARY
20 August to 6th September 2015

Searching for past students.
Do you know some-one who attended Glen Iris Primary School? Could you drop off a bundle of twenty postcards to a local shop, community group, kinder, elderly cits etc? Please collect from the Office.

A glimpse of the past ...

Did you know Glen Iris was named after a schooner? Captain Thomas Henderson, of the Royal Navy, arrived in Melbourne with his wife, four children and four servants on his ‘very smart vessel’ called the Iris in 1850. He sailed from Plymouth around the Cape of Good Hope. He acquired a property bounded by Gardiners Creek, High Street and a line extending Summerhill Road to Gardiners Creek. He sold the property which he named Glen Iris in 1852.

CYBERSAFETY

There are so many questions parents have about cybersafety. One of the best sites for parents of students in upper classes and those who’d like to know more is the site created by Ivanhoe Grammar. Scroll down the posts until you find one that is useful. http://icybersafe.com/

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

If during the day you need to advise the school of your child’s pickup arrangements, please ring the school office at all times. Please do not send this information via email as we cannot guarantee this will always be seen by the office staff or teacher before the afternoon dismissal, and we want the children to be safe and accounted for at all times.

Hours of Supervision

Please note that students are supervised in the yard before school from 8.45am and after school until 3.45pm.

Latest Newsletter

Want to receive an alert when our latest newsletter is online? Go to the GIPS website homepage and click on the orange link: Subscribe to Newsletter.
To all GIPS families,

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Walkathon. The children genuinely seemed to enjoy participating in this event… one of our most popular fundraisers each year.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that Donna Polkinghorne committed to making the Walkathon another success this year. We also appreciate the assistance of Donna’s support crew, including Vanessa Mackie, several GIPS students, office staff, teachers, and parent volunteers. Special thanks as well to Gavin Blue, whose family has recently joined the GIPS community, for offering to photograph the event and for providing us with an artful and memorable account of our students on the day.

Looking forward, we are pleased to inform you that plans for the upcoming Student Art Auction – our main social event of 2014 - are well progressed at this stage. Please mark your calendars to ensure that you don’t miss out… it promises to be a fun night for all GIPS families. More details will be provided through take-home notices and general advertisements over the next few weeks.

The next Parents’ Association meeting is scheduled for Monday, 21st July at 9:00am (after morning drop-offs) in the staff room. All are welcome so please join us if you can.

With best wishes on behalf of all of us at the Parents’ Association,

Alex Goldhagen, President.
FOOTY CARD TRADING

FOOTY CARD CLUB has begun on Wednesdays at lunchtime.

Students at Glen Iris Primary School have the opportunity to join in a supervised lunchtime club that allows students to trade collectible cards.

Guidance will be given to students to ensure, as far as possible, trades are fair and equitable and support will be given to students to develop good strategies for negotiation and fair play. The program has been expanded to include Preps and Year 1s. Students who chose to join this lunchtime club do so with the understanding that trades agreed upon in the session cannot be disputed once outside the group.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Just a reminder to all to keep checking our community noticeboard on our website. There is new information every fortnight that many of you may be interested in.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Just a reminder all volunteers who work in our school with our children must have current Working with Children Checks as indicated in the policy approved by School Council.

The policy and further information is located on our website.

We have had some situations of parents turning up without these checks and unfortunately being unable to partake in rostered classroom or playground activities, sporting events or excursions.