Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Glen Iris for the 2015 school year. The children have shared many stories of their adventures over the holiday break and seem to have had an exciting time. I hope you are all feeling rested and ready for a year of fun and learning.

I was delighted last Friday to see the children settle back into their school environment quickly and smoothly. This is, in no small part, due to the efforts of the staff who have put in many long hours during the holidays to ensure the classrooms and programs were ready for action from day 1. Thank you to the teachers and support staff for their commitment to these tasks.

Welcome to New Students

Last Friday, we welcomed 71 new Prep children and 8 children at other grade levels to Glen Iris. We hope you all enjoy learning and making friends at our school. I know our friendly school community will welcome new families.

It is the first time for some years that we have no new classroom teachers at GIPS. One staffing change is that Mrs Helga Shaw will take Leave during 2015. Helga’s teaching role in Performing Arts will be covered by Niki Judd, Belinda Hartung (Term 1) and Nikki Szwarcbard (returning in term 2).

We are also pleased to welcome additional Instrumental Music teachers, Lilla Fabrik and Kath Cooper. Lilla (pictured) will teach piano 2 days per week which will reduce the waiting list for piano students. Kath will work with Musicorp students each Monday teaching a range of concert band instruments. Welcome Lilla and Kath!

Parent Involvement in School Council

I would like to acknowledge the dedicated and valuable contribution made to the School Council in recent years by our retiring councillors: Jack Risos – More than 10 years on School Council with the past 6 years as School Council President; Meredith Dahlsen - 4 years as Treasurer; Trish Burrows – 6 years as a School Councillor. I thank these parents for the time, effort and expertise they have shared so willingly with our Council.

Our School Council comprises 8 parent members, 4 staff members, 2 community members (who can also be parents) and myself. Many parents enjoy participating in their children’s school life and contributing to our school community. In fact, research suggests that parental involvement plays a significant part in children’s success at school. One way you can consider being involved in school life is by becoming part of our School Council. This group meets once each month and guides policy and budgetary decision making in the school. Whilst it is an important part of school operations, School Council members do not need any special expertise, experience or skills. The most important thing is that you want to contribute to continually improving learning opportunities for all children at Glen Iris.

A School Council election is conducted each year. Each year, half the members of Council conclude their term of office and nominations to fill those vacancies are called for. Nominations are currently being taken for parent and teacher vacancies on our School Council for 2015 / 2016. We are very keen to welcome new members to the
Council as some councillors are retiring after many years’ service. There are 4 regular parent positions to be filled. These positions are for a 2 year term. Nomination forms for these positions are available from tomorrow, Friday 6 February at the Office and nominations close on Friday 13 February at 4pm.

School Council Treasurer. Can you help? We have been very fortunate to benefit from parent expertise to advise our School Council on financial matters. We are looking for an interested parent who would be willing to fulfil this function as School Council Treasurer for 2015. The Treasurer works in partnership with the principal and Business Manager to provide monthly reports to School Council. If you think you may be able to assist us in the Treasurer’s role, please contact me at the Office

Friendly Reminders:
- Sports Uniform: Our new School sports uniform is an optional garment for sporting competitions and physical education lessons. It is not regular school wear and should not be worn on other occasions. The sports uniform is available from PSW both in our school based store and the retail outlet in Mt Waverley for students in Grades 4 – 6.
- Dogs at school: We love to get to know all members of our GIPS families, however, as a general rule, please do not bring dogs – big or small – into the school grounds without prior arrangement. Some children are fearful or allergic to dogs and some dogs may be unnerved by the busy school environment. Class teachers prefer notice if children wish to bring animals into the classroom.

All the best for the year ahead

Regards

Meredith Carracher

GIPS

STAY IN TOUCH!

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

GLEN IRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
8.30am until 4.30pm

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.

SUNSMART
GIPS has a policy of “NO HAT, NO PLAY” from 1 September to 1 May.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL
Just a quick reminder that Glen Iris Primary School is a Nut Aware School and, as such, it is important that parents do not allow their children to bring any product to school that contains nuts of any type. Naturally this includes peanut butter, Nutella, nut health bars and cakes/biscuits that contain nuts. Please inform class teachers of all the ingredients of any food sent to school to share on special occasions. We appreciate your diligence in this matter.
New students might wonder why there are a couple of big purple bears near the Prep and 1 / 2 playground. These are Buddy Bears who remind us to play in a friendly and caring way with others. If students have no-one to play with they can sit next to Buddy on a seat under the oak tree and someone will always come and ask them if they’d like to play. Thank-you to Lachlan Irwin who saw that our Buddy Bears looked a bit tired and worn and repainted and fixed them over the school holidays.

Here is our special 150th logo which is on the Grade 6 jackets. Peter Holmes is responsible for the artwork and it is fabulous to commemorate this special year. How can you help the 150th? Join one of the teams that are organising the museum, food, activities for the Open Day August 30th.

We are creating a commemorative 150th Anniversary book which will be mainly pictorial. If you have any photos pre-2000 of the building, learning activities, art, music, sport, celebrations, events we’d love a scanned copy, or the original for us to scan. We are also looking for artefacts for our Museum. We also need reminiscences of a paragraph or two of fond memories. Please email to me as our deadline is the end of term 1.

Here are some interesting facts that we have ‘dug’ up.
1. The toilets were called the ‘Out Offices’. Students would need to ask if they could visit the Out Offices or the ‘OO’. Apparently the girls were more bashful about asking.
2. The school had a fife and drum band. It was an honour to be ‘Drum Major’. Anne Wellman is going to loan us her fife.
3. The school uniform was a cap and blazer – purple with gold.
4. When the school went on camp they took the parents to cook for them.
5. In the 70s our school defeated Ashburton in the cricket finals and there was a bit of rivalry between the two schools.
6. One teacher John Lynch had a cake slice named after him. Hmm… I’m keen to try it.

Hello all and on behalf of the Parent's Association, welcome or welcome back to an exciting year at GIPS in 2015!

The PA always welcomes new members and input, so if you are keen to join in the fun please contact us or come along to our first PA meeting on Monday 16th February 2015 at 7.30pm in the school staff room. Meetings this year will be the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm during school terms.

Our first event of the year will be the Family Fiesta, a casual BYO picnic at school on Friday 20th February, 5.30-7.30pm. There will be free entertainment for the kids, plus sausages, drinks and icy poles for sale.

A new PA initiative this year is to use the online booking site www.carebookings.com.au for Lunchtime Library Duty and Icy Pole duty. The code is BMTGG. Thanks to Greg Price for his hard work to get the system up and running for the start of term. So sign yourself up for a duty today!

Another great way to be involved and get to know other families in your class is to nominate for Class Rep. If you are interested, please fill out the nomination form and return to your child’s teacher ASAP.

Best wishes for a successful sesquicentennial!

Jane Lukins - Mum of Emily (4E) and Daniel (2C) President GIPS PA 2015

150th ANNIVERSARY
Have you checked out our history blog yet?
150th Anniversary Blog

Robyn Floyd - Assistant Principal
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.

LUNCHTIME DUTY

Welcome back. We are seeking parent helpers to assist in the library at lunchtimes to oversee board games and quiet reading, or roam the playground. A notice is being sent home this week.

Please try to find a spare lunchtime, as your children would love to see you.

Remember you will need a current Working With Children Check to participate.

Thank you.
Justine Moore (9889 9547)
Justine3146@gmail.com
On behalf of Parents Association.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If you need to take your child from a classroom during school hours:

- Please fill in the Leave Pass Book at the Office.
- Hand the white slip to the teacher when you collect your child.

FAMILY DETAILS

Have any of your family details changed recently? Can’t remember? Don’t worry we all have those moments. Call in to the School Office or give us a ring if you would like to check the information we have on file. If you have changed address, phone numbers, emergency contact details and email addresses - ring, call in to the Office or send a note requesting a “Change of Student Information” form be sent home with your child.

It is very important to keep your details up-to-date.
Kaye, Liz, Kathy and Rose
GIPS Office Staff

Bedtime Storytime
Jungle adventure...

Monday 2 March at 6.30pm
Ashburton Library
154 High Street, Ashburton
Phone 9278 4666

The whole family is welcome!
Wear your pyjamas and bring your favourite cuddly friend.
DANCECLUB at GLEN IRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
2015

Dance Club at GIPS sessions will be held on Thursday lunchtimes for all interested pupils in years 3 and 4.
The fun classes are designed to suit a wide range of abilities and styled appropriately for the age of its members.
After a fun warm-up the children will learn the steps to a choreographed dance in the genre of Jazz / Musical Theatre, culminating in an optional performance in assembly.

No previous experience is required. There are no auditions, competitions or exams.
The children dance purely for fun.
The informality of the class gives the children an opportunity to ‘have a go’ and experience the art of Dance in a fun, friendly and familiar environment.

Where: Glen Iris Primary School Multipurpose Room
When: Thursday lunchtimes 1:00 - 1:45 starting Thursday 12th Feb
What to wear: School uniform
The cost: $10 per session - $70.00 payment by term
Enquiries to: Kate Stanford - choreographer to GIPS Concerts

Mums and Dads! Do you want to volunteer in your community but are time poor? Casserole Club may just be perfect for you!

Casserole Club allows its volunteers to assist in their community using as minimal time possible whilst still creating a big impact from the work they do.
We match people in the Boroondara area who would like to share an extra portion of their home cooked meal with an older person in their neighbourhood who may not be able to cook for themselves regularly.
This is a great opportunity to assist in your community, meet new and interesting people and to show your children the value of volunteering.

To find out more information please go to www.casseroleclub.com.au or call Lana Barnett at the City of Boroondara on 03 92784777

Are you interested in starting a string instrument in 2015?

Biana Goldenberg teaches strings at GIPS on Thursdays. She is an experienced and highly qualified teacher and player. Biana is from a family of four generations of musicians, who have been playing and teaching around the world. She also plays with a number of professional groups. She teaches violin, viola and cello.

There is an opportunity for a few students to commence lessons with Biana in 2015. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact her on 0432 571 407 or by email on ygolden@walla.com. Instrument hire can also be arranged. Enrollment forms will be available at the school office.
Asthma and Thunderstorms

Summer storms are becoming more frequent throughout Australia. Thunderstorms can combine heavy rain, high humidity and strong winds. A European study found there are observations in favour of the possibility that thunderstorms disturb ground-level pollen grains, bursting the pollen grains and making the allergens small enough to be inhaled into the lungs. There is also evidence that after rain and during wet conditions there are a larger amount of fungal spores in the air. This can act as a trigger for asthma symptoms.

What can you do?

- Ensure preventer medication is taken as prescribed.
- Have an up to date Asthma Care Plan.
- If your asthma gets worse during thunderstorms try to stay indoors with the windows closed.
- Always carry your reliever medication with you.

For more information on Thunderstorms and asthma please see www.asthmaaustralia.org.au

Help your kids manage their asthma

Checklist for Parents

Does your child have an up to date asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?

- The Asthma Care Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated and signed by the doctor on an annual basis.

Does your child carry their reliever puffa and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their teachers?

- Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home).

Are you and your child aware of their asthma symptoms?

- Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the teachers aware of these triggers?

Do you listen to what your child says?

- They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.

Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?

- Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria. FREECALL 1800 279 462. asthma.org.au
Community Noticeboard

Don’t forget to check the Community Noticeboard on the GIPS website!

Futures Tennis
Various Venues Various Programs
Book now Term 1 2015

Ashburton United Soccer Club
Registration Day—Sunday 8th Feb—10am-12pm

Wilson Pee Wee Tennis
St. Dominic’s Tennis Club
Free Trial—Tuesday 10th Feb

Solway Basketball Club
Registrations Now Open
Registration Day—Sunday February 22nd—12.30pm-1.30pm

School Banking
2015 is ready for launch.

For over 60 years, the School Banking program has been teaching Australian children lifelong money skills. This year, your child is invited to join the Dollarmites on an intergalactic mission to Planet Savings.

Information on how students can get on board with School Banking, including a Savings Tracker and a rewards redemption card, is available from your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Your school has received parent packs that include all the information you need to get on board. If you haven’t received a parent pack yet, please ask your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Rewarding good savings habits with eight new items in 2015

The School Banking program encourages good savings habits by rewarding students with awesome rewards. For every 10 deposits made through the program, they can redeem a reward from our Outer Space Savers range, including ET DVDs, Planet Handballs, Invisible Ink Martian Pens, Intergalactic Rockets, Glow-in-the-Dark Solar Systems, Cosmic Light Beam Torches, Outer Space Savers, Money Boxes and Lunar Light Bands.

You could win a family trip to Disneyland

In a School Banking first, students who make 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically receive one entry into the competition draw to win a family trip to California’s Disneyland. The prize includes return airline, five nights accommodation, transfers and three days park entry for up to two adults and two kids, plus AUD$2,000 spending money.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking
2015
IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

SCHOOL STARTS FOR PREP TO YEAR 6 ON FRIDAY 30 JANUARY

GIPS Uniform Shop open in 2015 on:
Every Tuesday from 8.30am until 9.30am
Every Friday from 3.00pm until 4.00pm

SCHOOL HOURS
8.55 am Bag Bell: Students enter classrooms
9.00 am: Instruction begins
Children eat morning tea: 10.40 - 10.45am
Morning recess play: 10.45 - 11.10am
Children eat lunch: 12.50 - 1.00 pm
Lunch play: 1.00 - 1.50pm
All children are dismissed at 3.30pm

TERM DISMISSAL
At the end of Terms 1, 2 & 3 dismissal time is 2.30pm.
At the end of Term 4 dismissal time is 1.30pm.

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

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
8.30am - 4.30pm

2015 TERM DATES:
Term 1: 30th of January - 27th of March
Term 2: 13th April - 26th of June
Term 3: 13th of July - 18th of September
Term 4: 5th of October - 18th of December
2015 TERM DATES

Term 1  30 January to 27 March
Term 2  13 April to 26 June
Term 3  13 July to 18 September
Term 4  5 October to 18 December

2016 TERM DATES

Term 1  27 Jan (teachers) to 24 March
Term 2  11 April to 24 June
Term 3  11 July to 16 September
Term 4  3 October to 20 December

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.

SCHOOL PICKUP

Just a reminder to all parents when picking up children after school please do not park in the school car park.

The disabled car park is specifically reserved for those who need it and everyone else is asked to please park out in the surrounding streets.

HEAD LICE

They’re back…

Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on human for 10 000 years. You may be reassured to know that they are commonly found in places other than Glen Iris Primary School.

Some of the reasons they have survived for as long as they have are:

- The six legs of a louse end in a claw, allowing them to grip the hair.
- They detect vibration and can hide - (conditioner will help fix this problem)
- Head lice can ‘hold’ their breath for 20 mins – looking like they are dead.
- The eggs are attached to the hair with a ‘glue’ like substance.
- Studies conducted on 45 different products to dissolve the ‘glue’ showed nothing would dissolve it.

The good news…

We know where they live and we know how to find them.

If you follow these steps, once a week, the control of head lice in your home will be greatly improved.

Step 1  Comb inexpensive hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around;

Step 2  Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue;

Step 3  Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs;

Step 4  If lice or eggs are found, the child should be treated;

Step 5  If the child has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat since the eggs could be from the old infection.

If your child has head lice – tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them and ask them to check their family for head lice.