Dear Parents,

We have certainly had some summery days in the past fortnight, just as we knew we would once everyone is back at school and work.

Getting To Know You Meetings / Class Information Nights
It’s that time of year when teachers are keen to find out all there is to know about the children in their classes and to get to know the families as well. Last night, parents were invited to meet their class teachers for 2015 for a chat about the year ahead and to share any relevant information. If any families missed this opportunity, please contact your class teacher to make arrangements to meet at an alternate time.

Next Monday, February 23rd, Class Information Nights will be held for all grade levels. Efforts are made to spread the various grade levels to try to accommodate the majority of families without asking people to come out on more than one night. An important feature of this year’s meetings will be information about the use and purpose of the new iPads in the classrooms. I urge as many families as possible to be represented. Grade 5/6 families, in particular, are asked to attend if possible as specific details around the loan of a school iPad will be outlined.

Our iPads Have Arrived
Hooray! We now have 265 brand new iPads active in our school. Each child in the Grade 5/6 classes have their own iPad on which to work. All other classes have at least 10 new iPads plus our existing iPads and laptop computers.

iPads have been selected as our device of choice to provide students with the ability to communicate, connect and create anywhere, anytime. The versatility of the mobile device is an accurate reflection of the society in which we live. It is exciting to be able to provide these resources and experiences in our school environment. These resources are only possible through the support from the GIPS Community contributions to the Library / Technology Levy. These monies are going towards equipment, software, applications, peripherals and additional technical support.

Teachers will outline how the new iPads will enhance teaching and learning as part of the total education program at the Class Information Sessions on Monday, February 23rd.

Thank you to our ICT Coordinator, Susie Walton and her team of mums, Justine Moore, Kristen Jessen, Sarah Humphreys, Sarah Somerset and Wendy Clark for their efforts to unpack and process the devices in readiness for classroom use.

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 / Technology Fund, School Building Fund and Working Bee Fund. Some families have commented they were unable to pay school levies online through the OfficeMax site. This facility is only available until December 31st, although it remains possible to order the book boxes. School levies are now being received at the school Office by cash, cheque or credit card. Telephone payments are accepted.

District Swimming Carnival
On Monday, February 24th, 34 Glen Iris children represented our school at the District Swimming Carnival. Finishing in an admirable 2nd place overall, the team displayed endeavour, spirit and sportsmanship as they all tried their best. There were many fine personal achievements on the day and a respectable number of swimmers qualified for the Divisional Championships. If you would like to see some great photos of the action, check out Gavin Blue’s photos on the foyer screen near the Office. Shortly, these photos will be available on the Zenfolio site. Thank you to PE Teacher, Nathan Gilliland, for his efforts in organising and training the team. Thanks also to the numerous parents and wellwishers that came along to cheer and especially to those that provided invaluable assistance with the team.

Family Fiesta
This Friday evening, we are all looking forward to the Parents’ Association Family Fiesta to welcome everyone back to GIPS
for the school year. Face painting and music will be provided for the children while parents catch up on the holiday news with friends and teachers. Sausages, cold drinks and icy poles will be available for sale. Thank you to Julie Gray and Sene-Li Wong for their organisation and effort to provide a great social evening for our community. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Student Reporting
Student written reports are often a source of frustration for parents when they should be a valuable and worthwhile document. Following some changes to Education Department policy, the school now has more flexibility to modify the student reporting format for 2015. A working party of teachers has been formed to facilitate this process and we look forward to getting some useful input from our GIPS families. In the coming days, you will receive a notice providing information on how you can share your thoughts regarding student reports through a survey and also some discussion groups.

Discussion forums will be conducted for interested parents at the following times:

- Thursday, February 26th 9:15am – 10:00am in the Performing Arts Room
- Thursday, February 26th 6:00pm – 7:00pm in the Performing Arts Room

I hope people will share their thoughts openly so we can improve this aspect of school life and make the lengthy time teachers spend preparing reports worthwhile.

School Council, Treasurer and Class parent Reps.
Community involvement is a cornerstone of our school and something that makes GIPS a special place to work and learn. Visitors to the school regularly comment to me what a happy, welcoming “feel” the school has.

Evidence of the community support for our school is shown in the generous offers of assistance we receive from parents. Since school commenced, we have called for volunteers for both School Council and our Parent Class Representatives. The vacancies on School Council are currently being finalised, however I am pleased to declare Irene Brumen duly elected at the close of nominations last Friday. Thank you to those parents who have kindly accepted nomination at this time. I will notify everyone of the final outcome when this round of nominations close next Monday.

We have had a large response from parents offering to fill the class contact role for each grade. I know that parents and teachers rely on these reps. to facilitate communications and social occasions for the class. A full list of class reps is included in today’s newsletter. Thank you to all parents who offered to fill these roles. We will be very grateful of your help with other tasks through the year.

OHS Update
Visitors to the school may have noticed some new signage on display near some entry points to the school building. Periodically, the Education Department conducts an asbestos audit on all government school facilities. This provides schools with up to date, accurate information regarding the various building materials used in construction of the facilities. A new practice with the Department is to display the signs now in place to alert tradespeople that they must consult documents and plans at the Office before commencing any works.

Sports Uniform
My apologies for an error in the previous newsletter regarding the wearing of the optional sports uniform. To clarify, the sports uniform is appropriate wear for children in Grades 3-6 on physical education days or sports days. It is not appropriate school wear on regular, non-phys-ed school days.

Yours Sincerely

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Class Reps</th>
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| Prep S | Lisa Waddell  
Emma Tuddenham |
| Prep G | Emma Verge  
Kelly Blue |
| Prep M | Debbie Graham |
| 1LG | Kate Robertson |
| 1MV | Kylie Carnegie |
| 2C | Flo Weaver  
Miranda Forghan |
| 2B | Sam McFarlane  
Nicola Thomas |
| 2S | Kelly Mrocki  
Draza Baxter |
| 3TJ | Pip Young |
| 3G | Lushani Dassanayake  
Wendy Clark |
| 3J | Fiona Laverty  
Amanda Parsons |
| 4G | Trudy Vasta  
Jane Hughes |
| 4B | Corie Shrimpton |
| 4E | Robyn McKern  
Jane Lukins |
| 5/6N | Michelle Grubnic  
Carolyn Ryan |
| 5/6S | Megan Bennett |
| 5/6K | Lynda Collins |
| 5/6H | Vanessa Mackle |

Class Rep 2015
From the Assistant Principal

The 150th Committee is working hard. By the end of term students will be able to purchase 150th badges to wear on hats or uniforms or just as a keepsake. Our Museum is taking shape. I am also hearing from many ex-students who have happy memories of the school.

Monday morning assemblies were not in the hall but with all classes lined up in grades in the quadrangle in front of the flag. Students swore allegiance to Queen and country with hands over their hearts and sang God Save the Queen. Earlier students remember singing ‘God Save the King.’

Many of our ex-students remember school milk and the 1/3 pint bottles delivered in the mornings for each student to drink at ‘play-time’. ‘Milk was awful in summer because of no refrigeration’. The milk crates were kept in the cellar. (The little door under the art room on the south-west side). Some staff members (in the 1970s) have remembered that when they went on school camp some parents joined them to cook for the students. Other students have shared their hijinks such as walking up the lane opposite the school and throwing acorns at each other from the oak trees up the lane.

Keep those memories rolling in. ‘Our drum band’ a photo shared by Peter Abrahams (1958-1963)

Parents' Assoc'n News

The PA held our first meeting last Monday, 16th February. There was a great attendance, thanks to those who came along. Information about the PA and planned events for 2015 is being updated and will be available shortly on the GIPS website under the Parents tab. The many school and PA events are also listed on the Calendar under the News tab for anyone that hasn’t found this fabulous resource yet.

A reminder about the Family Fiesta, at school tomorrow evening, Friday 20th February. It promises to be a fun event and I hope to see you there. Many thanks to Julie Gray and Sene-Li for organising!

The PA is still seeking someone to co-ordinate our main fundraising event for this year. We have decided on a Trivia night to be held late in Term 2. I have several willing helpers waiting for a leader! Please contact me if you wish to take up the challenge.

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

Parents Association Event

An exciting and fun new fundraising and school community event is coming! It is a Cake and Produce Stall that will be held once a term. The money raised from Cake and Produce Stalls will be used towards purchasing specific items that benefit all the students at Glen Iris Primary School. The term 1 stall will be held from 3.30pm to 4pm on Friday 20th March, on the coloured squares. Each stall will be hosted by 4 classes. The families from each class will be responsible for hosting one stall a year. A notice will go out shortly to 4 classes and we invite families to stock and man the stall, with instructions, food safety practices, and packaging requests. We are asking that you donate baked goods (there will be some recipe suggestions on the notice provided), or produce (which could be fruit or herbs from your garden, or home made jams or preserves). It will be great to have cupcakes, muffins or biscuits for children’s afternoon teas or larger cakes for the weekend or next week’s lunch-boxes. All contributions will be greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to creating a great Glen Iris Primary School event.

Kelly Blue
Lisa Waddell
Kate Venter

150th Anniversary

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

Robyn Floyd - Assistant Principal
GET INVOLVED NOW!

LUNCHTIME LIBRARY / YARD DUTY
ICY POLE HELPERS

Grandparents welcome!

Book online at
carebookings.com.au
Code: BMTGG

DIVISIONAL SWIMMING

Please note:
All swimmers who have made it through to the divisional swimming carnival will be required to make their own way to and from the pool.

Thankyou—Nathan Gilliland

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

FAMILY PHOTOS

A family photo pack is available for purchase for $20.

These will need to be ordered on a SEPARATE ENVELOPE available at the school office

The Family Photo Order Envelope MUST BE left at the office or photos CANNOT BE TAKEN.

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.

LUNCHTIME DUTY

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 was sent home earlier this term.

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.

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2015 Open Night and Principal's morning tea

Auburn High School was launched in January 2014 and is already achieving its vision of engaging boys and girls with high quality education. We are receiving lots of support from the local community and numbers are growing quickly.

Our goal is to create an outstanding school that achieves excellent results.

Auburn High School is the only Victorian government high school offering bilingual Mandarin and bi-national French programs.

Bookings are essential, please call 9822 2347. For more information about the school, please visit www.auburns.vic.edu.au and we invite you to visit our Facebook page.

Parenting through Tough Times

Are your children struggling with change and stress? Is your family facing challenges like moving house, relationship changes, new school, illness, losing a job… or whatever is happening for you?

Is coping with parenting extra hard at the moment?

Would you like a chance to talk with other parents in similar situations?

You are invited to a two-session program:

1. Get more understanding about how change and stress affects both parents and kids
2. Talk about why your kids' behaviour is so challenging at the moment…and ideas about what you can do to help them settle and cope better
3. Build your strength and family resilience
4. Take some time out explore ideas to gain support and meet your own needs

Who: Parents & carers of children aged 0-13 years
Where: Anglicare, 7-11 Shipley Street Box Hill
When: 10.30am-12.30pm Wednesdays 11th & 25th March 2015
Contact: 0458 002 536; Kim: 9736 6146
Cost: Free – Booking essential

Wednesday Play and Ride at Kew Traffic School

Has your child just started prep and is looking for something to do on their free Wednesday? Then come along to our new Wednesday Play and Ride sessions.

Between 11 February and 4 March we are introducing new Wednesday Play and Ride sessions for prep students to coincides with the start of the new school year.

Bring your bikes and helmets, practice your awareness of road signs and traffic lights. Make new friends and enjoy the fresh air and exercise!

Sessions are free play only. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

When: Wednesday 11, 18 and 25 February and 4 March
Session times: Morning: 9:30am-11:30am
Afternoon: 12:00pm-2:00pm
Where: Kew Traffic School corner Cuthbert and Warne roads, Kew
Cost: $5 per child. Adults and non-riding children enter for free!

To book: Visit https://services.boroondara.vic.gov.au

Visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kew-traffic-school for further information, or call Jenni Frendo, Community Safety Officer on 9278 4768
FREE Parent Information Night
How do I raise a Resilient Child? - the 32 emotional and social skills involved in building resilience at any age
Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm

Location: Rosstrevor Hall, Brighton Grammar Old Middle School, entrance off Allele St, opposite the new Middle School and the Girrawheen Chapel
Presenter: Melissa Anderson – Director of SHINE Academy for Girls and LONGFORD & FRASER for boys, resilience coach, counsellor, pharmacist
Cost: Nil. A gold coin donation to a selected charity is warmly welcomed
Bookings: 9592 4948

DANCE CLUB at GIPS 2015
What an AMAZING response to our first week of Dance Club. Thank you so much for your support, enthusiasm and boundless energy! We are now fully booked but please contact me if you are still interested as there is a waiting list in place. Looking forward to another great year of dancing. Kate :)

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 Boronia 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.casserolecub.com.au or call Lana Barnett at the City of Boronia 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 vgolden@walla.com. Instrument hire can also be arranged. Enrollment forms will be available at the school office.
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.

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.

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.

GLEN IRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

8.30am until 4.30pm

SUNSMART

GIPS has a policy of

“NO HAT, NO PLAY”

from 1 September to 1 May.

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.

Asthma and Thunderstorms

Summer storms are becoming more frequent throughout Australia. Thunderstorms can bring 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, bundling 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. These 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 [link].
Scorpions Glen Iris Basketball Club
Registrations for the Winter 2015 season are now open

Cat Protection Society of Victoria
Adopt a Cat or Kitten

Community Noticeboard

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

School Banking 2015 is ready for launch.

For over 20 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 reward items. 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 airfares, 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

Things to know before you Can: Dates have, apply. Promotion starts 9.00am AEDT 27/3/15 and ends 11.59pm AEDT 19/12/15. Entry is open to all Australian account holders aged 5-13 years who participate in Commbank’s School Banking program. Entrants under 18 must have parent/guardian consent. The draw will take place at 11.30am AEDT on 20/12/16 at the Promoter’s office. The first valid entry drawn will win a family trip to California’s Disneyland valued at AUD$2,245. The winner’s name will be published in the public notices section of The Australian on 28/3/16. Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 41 123 123 123 of Level E, 11 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions available at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. NSW Permit No: LTP15/001945; ACT Permit No: TP15/604345; VIC Permit No: 14/5865; SA Permit No T14/23227.
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.

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.
- 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: Combing 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.

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.

2015 TERM DATES

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 January to 27 March</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>13 April to 26 June</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>13 July to 18 September</td>
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<td>5 October to 18 December</td>
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2016 TERM DATES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27 Jan (teachers) to 24 March</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>11 April to 24 June</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>11 July to 16 September</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3 October to 20 December</td>
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