Dear Parents,

After a long wait and planning period, this week we have finally seen the installation of the new Grade 5/6 play equipment. The equipment should be available for use next week. Thank you to the GIPS Community for their support of the Parent Association fund raising efforts this year that have contributed significantly to the provision of the play equipment.

ICT @ Glen Iris

Last night, the School Council endorsed the staff proposal for the renewal of our Information and Communications Technologies program at Glen Iris. This is a very exciting time for our school as we take the next step towards provision of a 21st Century learning environment for our students. It is our responsibility to support children to be effective and efficient 21st Century learners who construct, create, communicate and connect in the classroom as in the real world – anywhere, anytime. Our classrooms need to reflect modern society and the lives we lead.

From the commencement of the 2015 school year, all classrooms will be equipped with a significant increase in computer devices, in particular iPad Minis. Our research, investigations and advice from a range of sources indicate the diversity and versatility of these mobile devices. Those of us used to using our tablets for browsing the web, email, using some basic apps and playing games, will be amazed by the capacity these devices have to construct and communicate knowledge. The school’s network will be developed to support the devices so that documents can be stored, printed and shared. Laptop devices will also feature in the school’s ICT program providing students with the opportunity to become competent users of both platforms.

This increase in hardware will lift the ratio of students and devices across the school to 1:1. This will vary throughout the school, however, every student’s computer access will significantly increase. In the Grade 5/6 classes, students will be provided with their own iPad Mini device for the two year...
period for educational use. Families with children in these grades will receive more detailed information soon. So, does this mean students at Glen Iris are going to spend all day staring at a screen? Most certainly not! Our objective is for the devices to become a key tool in students’ educational toolkit where we select the best tool for the purpose.

These improvements are being adopted with no additional expense to parents. I hope as a community you anticipate this new development with enthusiasm and support us to implement new practices and processes.

Booklists and School Levies 2015

Shortly, you will receive information regarding the ordering of student requisites and payment of levies for 2015. As we did for 2014, families will order their student materials online and arrange delivery to their preferred address. School levies are also payable at the same time, where possible. Parents are required to provide booklist items and contribute for bulk classroom materials. Teachers have prepared a list of the required items for each grade level. Some items are listed as “optional”. This means, they are required but families may elect to re-use items from home. The school ask families to contribute to the following voluntary funds: Library/ICT Fund; Building Fund and Working Bee Levy. The school has not increased these costs and I request parents carefully consider supporting these initiatives as they enable the school to continue to develop and improve. Detailed information will be circulated soon.

Whole School Transition

We know that moving on to new grades and classes is a challenging time for many children. In fact, experts liken the experience to starting a new job where you need to adjust to many new people and expectations. At Glen Iris, we anticipate that children will make this transition more smoothly with some opportunities to become familiar with their new grades, teachers and what to expect. Teachers are planning a series of experiences for children commencing later in November when all classes will experience what lies ahead. Children will visit classrooms, meet their teacher and new classmates and have the chance to ask questions of the children in the year ahead. We hope this will assist children to have a smooth introduction to school in 2015.

Repeat Cyber Safety Session for Parents – A session not to be missed!

Last week, we offered a Cyber Safety evening here at Glen Iris. Our students are active users of social media, or will be in the future. The parent feedback from the session has been very positive and we have had requests to repeat the session. If you missed out, you might like to consider attending a repeat session next Thursday, November 27th. One of our teachers, Claire Sutherland is completing her PhD research in this area and has been invited to speak at a conference in Sydney next year. Claire and eSmart Coordinator, Alex Schifer will present valuable information for every parent that is pertinent and relevant to our Glen Iris students.

Working/Library Bee

Our final Working/Library Bee for the year will be conducted this Saturday morning, November 22nd. The more parents able to assist will be greatly appreciated, even for a short time. Many thanks to our Buildings and Environment Convenor, Garry Bennett, for his efforts in organising our Working Bees in 2015 and Julie Gray for organising the Library Bees.

The Ashburton Festival

I am looking forward to seeing a number of our performance groups and instrumental students performing this Sunday at the Ashburton Festival. Our groups will appear on the stage between 1:00pm – 1:30pm.

Recent Excursions

It must be excursion season at the moment! This week the Preps have visited The Royal Botanic Gardens; the Grade 5/6 classes have visited IMAX and last week the Grade 1 children took to the Melbourne Public Transport system as part of their topic on Transport.

Yours Sincerely

Meredith Carracher
From the Assistant Principal

ICT (Information Communication & Technology) @ GIPS

This is a summary of the presentation to new Prep parents at TAKE-OFF by Robyn Floyd (AP) and students from grades 1, 3 & 5. For many of us who grew up with pen and paper (contrary to popular opinion I did not use a slate at school), blackboards, whiteboards before they were interactive, and mobile phones the size of a brick, ICT could be simply seen as publishing stories on the laptop or iPad, searching the internet and copying chunks of information from Wikipedia to paste into the latest project, and playing games. At GIPS we know ICTs can be so much more.

At Glen Iris Primary teachers have a strong commitment to establishing sound pedagogical foundations focusing on powerful learning enabled by ICTs.

Our vision is that:

- our students will have access to a variety of devices so that they can be creative and adaptable in the 21st Century;
- the use of ICT as a learning tool will enhance teaching and learning throughout the curriculum

Here are a few of the examples that students showed our ‘new Prep’ parents.

Grade 5 and 6 students use Edmodo. Edmodo is a social learning platform website for teachers, students, and parents. Using Edmodo, each class teacher invites students into a private class group that can be used for online classroom discussions, but in a format that keeps the teacher firmly in control. This is a screen shot of my Lego group. What better way to apply your knowledge of angles, measurement, rotation and other maths concepts than by programming a robot? [https://firstaustralia.org/competitions/first-lego-league](https://firstaustralia.org/competitions/first-lego-league)

Grade 3s had spent some time the previous week looking at improving their research skills. One of the activities including visiting a ‘fake’ website about the near extinction of the ‘Tree Octopus’. [http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus](http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus). We know how convincing ‘fake’ websites can look so developing cyber-sense skills is important.

Lastly, the Year 1s demonstrated how they had used 2Simple software, licensed to our school, and created learning games to reinforce their spelling skills. Each student had designed a game to their own specific learning needs. We LOVED the sound that the students had inserted when the wrong answer was clicked! [https://www.2simple.com/about-2simple](https://www.2simple.com/about-2simple)

And … Cybersafety Presentation for Parents Thursday 27th November 9-10 Multi-purpose Room (all welcome)

Soiree- Term 4

Notices have already gone home in regards to the Term 4 Soiree which is to be held on the evening of Monday 1st December. If you have not received one, please print from the school website. Permission forms must be returned to me by Monday 24th November, at the very latest. Forms will not be accepted after this date.

Thanks, Kate Van der Jagt
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

The final payment for the 2014 EMA was made in August 2014.

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

TERM 4 2014
Last day Friday 19th December.
School finishes at 1.30pm.
TERM 1 2015
Students start Friday 30th January.

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.

Don’t forget to check the Community Noticeboard on the GIPS website!
• Single Parents / Active Kids Day
Dear Friends,

The Parents’ Association held a well-attended Annual General Meeting on Monday to review school year 2014 and to confirm plans for 2015.

To date, the committee has generated a net profit of over $24,000 for the school in 2014 through our various fundraising events and activities. And while all PA-sponsored events are special in their own way, the highlight of the year was undoubtedly our main event, the Student Art Auction which contributed nearly half this amount.

Plans for 2015 are already in progress and we are looking forward to aligning these to the 150th Anniversary celebrations at Glen Iris Primary. We are also pleased to announce that we will be adding a Mother’s Day event to our calendar of events next year and investigating alternate sources of funding (through grants, etc.) to supplement our other fundraising activities.

I am extremely pleased by the number of generous volunteers who will be joining the committee next year. Many of these are relatively new to the school, so we look forward to exploring some fresh ideas that these parents will bring with them.

Furthermore, I am proud to confirm that we have filled all key committee roles at this time, apart from that of President. Having been in the role this year, and having worked closely with Sene-Li Wong as her Vice-President last year, I can genuinely attest to the fact that this is a terrific opportunity to be directly involved in many aspects of the school.

I would be pleased to see another parent take over this position in 2015 if you might be interested. Needless to say, I will work closely with the incumbent during the transition period to ensure a smooth handover. We are hoping to confirm this nomination by the end of the month to allow ample time for the transition before the end of the school year. Please contact me personally if you would like to discuss in more detail: 0418 504 339.

A full report of the AGM will be sent to you via your class reps. Details of our plans for 2015 will be available on the school website prior to the start of Term 1 next year. If you have any questions or suggestions in this respect, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thanks again to everyone who has been involved in any aspect of the Parent’s Association during the year… especially to our principal, Meredith Carracher, for her ongoing support and guidance.

Kind regards,

Alex Goldhagen, President
SAFEMinds combines a range of targeted training and a comprehensive toolkit of resources, to support whole school communities apply the NIP it in the bud! early intervention approach.

SAFEMinds Online
SAFEMinds: In Practice
SAFEMinds: At Home

SAFEMinds: AT HOME

SAFEMinds offers parents and carers a series of information forums which will focus on helping parents and carers understand their role in supporting their child’s mental health and wellbeing; and connecting them with school and mental health resources within their local community. In addition, parents will have access to a targeted version of SAFEMinds Online and Toolkit resources.

SAFEMinds Online

SAFEMinds Online uses an immersive, video-based experience, to tell a series of personal stories of children and young people, their families and teachers. This approach aims to develop the knowledge and understanding of the whole school community – school staff, parents and carers – about the many different forms of emotional distress children and young people may experience, and how these might be presented. Supporting resources, further background information and the NIP it in the bud! Toolkit can also be found in SAFEMinds Online.

To access SAFEMinds Online go to deedt.techno-savvy.com.au, select SAFEMinds and enter the password SAFEMinds-Guest.

SAFEMinds Comes to Town!

headspace – the National Youth Mental Health Foundation will be presenting a FREE session in Dandenong for parents to learn about early detection and support for young people through the SAFEMinds mental health training currently being introduced for schools and families across Victoria.

Time: 7pm to 9pm
Date: 12 November 2014
Venue: headspace Dandenong
196 Lonsdale Street
Dandenong 3175

Parents interested in attending can register via www.eventbrite.com.au/o/safeminds-7552791023
Dear Parents,

Please we urgently need your help!!

We urgently need your help in ensuring we have a viable Committee for 2014. I do understand that we are asking one of the most exhaustive groups of the population, however we cannot run the service without your assistance.

The Centre cannot run without a Committee and your support is desperately needed, so if you are returning next year please consider volunteering for one of the positions. We only require a few hours of your time per month to keep the Centre running.

At present we need assistance with the following positions: Community Outreach, playgroup Liaison, President, Vice President and General Committee positions.

I know life is hectic, especially for our young mums, but please help as we don’t want the Centre to close due to the lack of a Committee. Summaries of the positions are available on our web site at http://www.bowenstreet.org.au

Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

Regards

Mary Liston
Manager

Somers School Camp
2015

All 'Expressions of Interest' for Somers Camp 2015 have now closed.
Should your child be allocated a position, you will be contacted shortly.

Regards

Tanya Tomic - Somers Camp Co-ordinator

THE NUTCRACKER
Join the students from Glen Iris School of Dance in their end of year performance of this family favourite.

Featuring Emily T in the lead role of Clara.
Also featuring many other students of Glen Iris Primary:
Monday December 8th and Tuesday December 9th
@ The Alexander Theatre, Monash University.
6:30 - 8:30pm.
A unique junior version that caters for the youngest audience member.
Also featuring a few very naughty rats from Glen Iris Primary………..
Tickets from $20 - $30
www.monash.edu/mapa

Would you like to learn a Musical Instrument and join the Glen Iris Primary School Band?
Glen Iris Primary School together with Musicorp are excited to offer a variety of instruments for students to learn.
Flute, Trumpet, Saxophone, Trombone, Clarinet and Percussion lessons are available.
Lessons are held during school time along with a weekly band rehearsal.
Please call Musicorp on 1300 858 911 or email Amber on amber@musicorp.com.au
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.

Encourages:
- Respect for themselves and other’s
- Consideration
- Use of time and abilities wisely
- Being friendly to others
- Make choices for a better world.
- To Develop thoughtfulness
- Honesty attributes
- Development of trust
- Strengthen Optimism
- Development of Courage

Contact: Meriln Cunningham (District Manager)
Ph: 9852 3638, 0412552133
When: Monday pm during school terms.
Situated: City of Booroondara

Support art education projects at The Royal Children’s Hospital by purchasing a copy of the 2015 Children’s Artwork Calendar.

Get your copy from:
www.giftshop.rch.org.au
**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.

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**BECOME A TEACHER’S AIDE**

**STUDY CERTIFICATE III IN EDUCATION SUPPORT**

- Start February 2015
- Chadstone & City Campus
- 17 weeks part time
- Undertake practical placement
- Blended study – on campus and online

T: 03 9564 2067
E: COMMUNITYSERVICES@HOLMESGLEN.EDU.AU
W: WWW.HOLMESGLEN.EDU.AU

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**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.

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**2014 TERM DATES**

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>28 January to 4 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>22 April to 27 June</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>14 July to 19 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>6 October to 19 December</td>
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**2015 TERM DATES**

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>30 January to 27 March</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>13 April to 26 June</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>13 July to 18 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>5 October to 18 December</td>
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