

Dear Parents,

May is a busy month in the school calendar with camps, excursions, NAPLAN and Education Week events, together with teacher preparation of students' mid-year reports. We have also had many activities involving our parent community volunteering their time and support which help make GIPS such a positive and vibrant community.

PARENT WALKTHROUGHS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, as part of Education Week, we are inviting parents to come into the classrooms to watch how we teach Writing at school.

The date and times for each 'Parent Walk Through' is as follows: -

- **Prep:** Friday 25 May
- **Year 1:** Thursday 24 May
- **Year 2:** Tuesday 22 May
- **Year 3:** Wednesday 30 May
- **Years 4, 5 & 6:** Monday 28 May

Further details about the 'Parent Walkthroughs' and how to sign up will be sent out via Compass tomorrow (Thursday). Please keep an eye out for this notice as numbers will be limited per session.

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and 5 will undertake the annual NAPLAN Testing Program for schools in the upcoming weeks. They are to be held on the mornings of Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 May for all students in Years 3 and 5. The NAPLAN Testing Program cover the areas of Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, punctuation & grammar) and Numeracy.

Robyn Floyd participated in a two day ACER training program as part of the Victorian NAPLAN Marking Centre management team with representatives from the other jurisdictions. She will be supervising the Victorian marking teams to ensure consistency and accuracy in the marking of the NAPLAN writing papers.

At Glen Iris we try to make these tests part of the normal school program and would encourage parents to do likewise. The Naplan results will be available later in the year for all parents whose children are in these year levels.

Information about NAPLAN has been sent home with students and made available on Compass. It can also be found [here](#).

ATTITUDE TO SCHOOL SURVEY

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and each year conduct a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. The school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

Over the course of the next two weeks students from Years 4, 5 and 6, will participate in the survey. The children will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose

built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way “testing” your child. No identifiable personal data is included in the survey response file. The survey results will be reported back to the school in Term 3.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

At our assembly on Friday, our student leaders highlighted the Premier Reading Challenge and encouraged as many students to be involved this year. This is a great way to promote reading in our school and share our love of reading. More details about the program can be found at this [link](#).

SAFE USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES AT HOME

I would encourage parents to attend the iTandCoffee evening on Tuesday 15 May and find out some information on how to ensure your child’s safe use of digital devices at home. Further details about this parent information evening can be found [here](#).

WORKING BEE

A huge thank-you to all the parents who attended the Working Bee on Saturday 5 May. Our grounds are looking fantastic! Along with a general clean-up, two structural tasks were completed. The fixing of the steps (pictured right) along the front fence and replacing the boards surrounding the Year 5/6 play equipment (pictured below). A special mention to Craig Ots-Maher for all his work in organising the working bees ably assisted by Kelly Mrocki. Also thanks to Jon Greaves for providing the expertise and equipment to make this possible. There will be other opportunities to help with our Working Bees in Terms 3 and 4.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

At the same time as the Working Bee on Saturday afternoon, we also had the Friends of the Library group cleaning and restacking books in our Library. Led by Jacqui Brown, a team of industrious helpers worked their magic and our library has never looked so inviting!

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Last Friday, the children – and hopefully our Mums and special visitors – had a fantastic morning at the Mother's Day Breakfast. This Special Event organised by our Parents' Association was much appreciated and enjoyed! We had a great turn out and the venue was perfect for the not-so-perfect weather conditions. A special thank-you to Dani Schmidt for co-ordinating this event and the many parent helpers who assisted with the serving of the delicious food. Thanks also to the photographers Gray Tham, Craig Mills and Mal Osborne-Smith. A final thanks to the Glen Iris Road Uniting Church for making the hall and kitchen available to make this a memorable morning for all.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

We also had a very successful Mother's Day stall on Thursday last week. Thanks to Lisa Kelly for overseeing the organisation of all the gifts available for the children to buy, Katrina Standen for organising the many parent helpers, and to the many parents who helped on the stall. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Mums a lovely Mother's Day with their families on Sunday.

2019 PREP ENROLMENTS

Prep enrolments for siblings for 2019 should have been submitted at the school office by now. If you haven't yet submitted your enrolment forms for next year please do so by the end of the week. Enrolment forms for 2019 are available on this link: [2019 enrolment form](#).

TEA POT DRAW

Congratulations to the following students who were drawn out at Assembly on Friday for displaying our School Values of **Gratitude, Empathy, Respect, Honesty** and **Resilience**.

Yr. 5-6: Isla B, Brae M, Adam S, Stephanie N, Dan H & Emily T.

Yr. 3-4: Iris D, Lucas R, Charlie J, Hunter B, Amelia T & George G

Yr. P-2: Jimmy B, Alex D, Annabelle P, Andy V-R, Holly H & Jack H

Mrs Floyd and I, together with members of the Wellbeing Team, look forward to hosting a Morning Tea with the above students next week.

3/4 CAMP

Year 3 and 4 students are, as you read this, on a three-day camp at Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. Students will participate in a wide range of educational and environmental activities including archery, flying fox, and a river walk experience to pan for gold. I would like to acknowledge the teachers who put in a lot of effort in preparing for this camp and the extra time commitments away from their own families to make them a great experience for the students. I will be visiting the camp on Thursday and look forward to seeing the Year 3 & 4 students in the camp setting. The students were all very excited and will no doubt return with lots of stories about their activities over the three days.

CROSS COUNTRY

Yesterday the students from Years 3 to 6 participated in the House Cross Country carnival at Ferndale Park. After the postponement from last week, the children were all keen to complete the course, ranging up to 3 kilometres, to the best of their ability. The positive team spirit and enthusiastic participation of all students was a highlight. It was especially great to witness the children encouraging each other as they passed along the course. Thank you to our PE teacher, Nathan Gilliland, our enthusiastic House Captains and the parent helpers, available on short notice, for ensuring that the event ran smoothly and the children were able to participate safely. The parents lining the course offered every child great encouragement and support. From this event, a school team will be selected to compete in the Glen Iris District Cross Country on Tuesday 22 May. Results and photos can be found [here](#).

PENCILS COMMUNITY

Thanks to the efforts of the Student Representative Council (SRC), we were able to present to a very grateful representative of the Pencil Community a car load of stationary to pass on to disadvantaged children in need.

The SRC will be presented with their badges at our next School Assembly on Friday 18 May.



FIRE ED FOR PREPS

The Preps are currently undertaking a Fire Safety education program. The program, delivered by firefighters at the school, helps students develop a basic understanding of fire safety and to view firefighters as community helpers.

Over two school visits the firefighters address the following key areas:

- Firefighters are our friends
- Good/safe fires always have an adult in charge
- Smoke alarms alert us to the presence of smoke and fire
- Crawl down low and go, go, go when evacuating a smoke-filled room
- Stop, drop, cover, roll if your clothes are on fire
- Every family needs to identify a safe meeting place
- The number to phone for emergency help is 000

CURRICULUM DAY – Wednesday 6 June

A reminder to all families that a Curriculum Day will be held on Wednesday 6 June to support the student reporting process. Children do not attend school on this day. Camp Australia will be running a program on the day from 7.00am to 6.30pm. Details can be found on their website [here](#).

YEAR 1 PARENT READING INFORMATION SESSION

All parents and carers of Year 1 students are invited to attend an information session on Reading. This session will be presented by Robyn Challis and Brodee Procel and will focus on the reading process and how you can support your child with their reading at home. It will be held next Wednesday, 16th of May, in the library starting at 9.00am and finishing around 10.00am. Please sign up [here](#) or email the office at glen.iris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Garry Collins
Principal