

Dear Parents,

The final full school week of 2023 is here, and what a year it has been! I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all families for your support throughout the year. I thank everyone for your contributions to the GIPS community and hope you all get the opportunity to have a well-deserved break over the Christmas period with your families.

LAST DAY & FINAL ASSEMBLY

A reminder that our last day of the school will be on Tuesday 20th December. All students will be dismissed at **1.30pm**.

Our final assembly will be on Tuesday starting at 12.50pm. We will say good-bye to our Year 6 students and any other students leaving GIPS with our "Walk of Fame" and parents are most welcome to be onsite for this event which will take place in the school grounds at approximately 1.20pm.

2021 SEMESTER 2 REPORTS

On Monday 19th December at 4.00pm the Semester 2 reports will be available on Compass. A letter with information about the reports as well as a student self-reflection and a 2023 grade list will be sent home on that day with your child.

STAFFING NEWS

We have finalised our staffing for 2023 and it is with a tinge of sadness that we are farewelling 4 of our staff: Sam Hynes, Braden Pitcher, Nicolle Briglia and Carolyn Blackwell. We thank them for all their amazing contributions to GIPS and wish them all the very best. In 2023, we welcome Kate Watycha (Junior Performing Arts), Mae Wilkinson (Grade 1 teacher), Charlie Collopy-White (Grade 5/6 teacher), Adriana Bisognano (Grade 4 teacher), Ashlee Patterson (Grade 5/6 teacher), Andrew Dong (Teacher Aid) and Meg Ritchie (Teacher Aid). We welcome back Rachael McGrath who will be teaching senior Performing Arts. Emma Black and Sarah Hunting will be taking 12 months leave and Barbara Maclarn will be taking a well-deserved break and will return at the beginning of Term 4.

CLASSROOMS 2023

Our students will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and classmates on Thursday. We will have 17 classrooms next year based around the current numbers of 390 students. Below is a full list of the classes and teaching staff for 2023.

Year Level	No of students No of Classes	Teachers
Prep	3	Sammy Chapman Brooke Clarkson Meagan Cofield
Grade 1	3	Lily Cribbes Mary-Anne Jansen Mae Wellington
Grade 2	2	Bindi Tod/Niki Judd Jill Gorman/Amy Lauritz
Grade 3	3	Lucy Gargano/Jessa Amedo (Thurs) Lee Laier/Jessa Amedo (Fri) Kyle Hosking
Grade 4	2	Tanya Tomic/James Smith Adriana Bisognano

Grade 5/6	4	Shanae Hill Peter McClure Ashlee Patterson Charlie Collopy-White
SPECIALISTS		
Art - Michele Freeland –Small / Rachael McGrath		
Performing Arts - Rachael McGrath (Yr 3 to 6) / Kate Watycha (Prep to 2)		
French - Laurence Barré		
PE - James Smith		
Learning Specialist - Meagan Cofield & Shelley Morrison		
Tutoring - Robyn Challis		
Murrang Lead - Bindi Tod / Peter McClure		
Administration - Gina Hasapis / Sally Pace / Nicole Ralph		
Education Support - Andrew Dong / Meg Ritchie		
Library Technician - Krista Morris		
Acting Principal - Debbie McDermott		
Acting Assistant Principal - Shelley Morrison		

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

The Year 6 Graduation will be held tonight at Sacre Coeur. It will be a memorable night for all our Year 6 students and families. A huge thankyou to the parents who have worked tirelessly to ensure the night is a memorable one for our students and families. Thank you to Terry Leveque for being DJ.

YEAR 5 LEADERSHIP

The Year 5 students will take part in “SALT & Chips” Leadership Day tomorrow. Glenn Loughrey will speak to the students about ‘What makes a good leader?’ They will then have Potato cakes and chips for lunch followed by activities based around leadership and their 2023 SALT groups.

CLASS END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

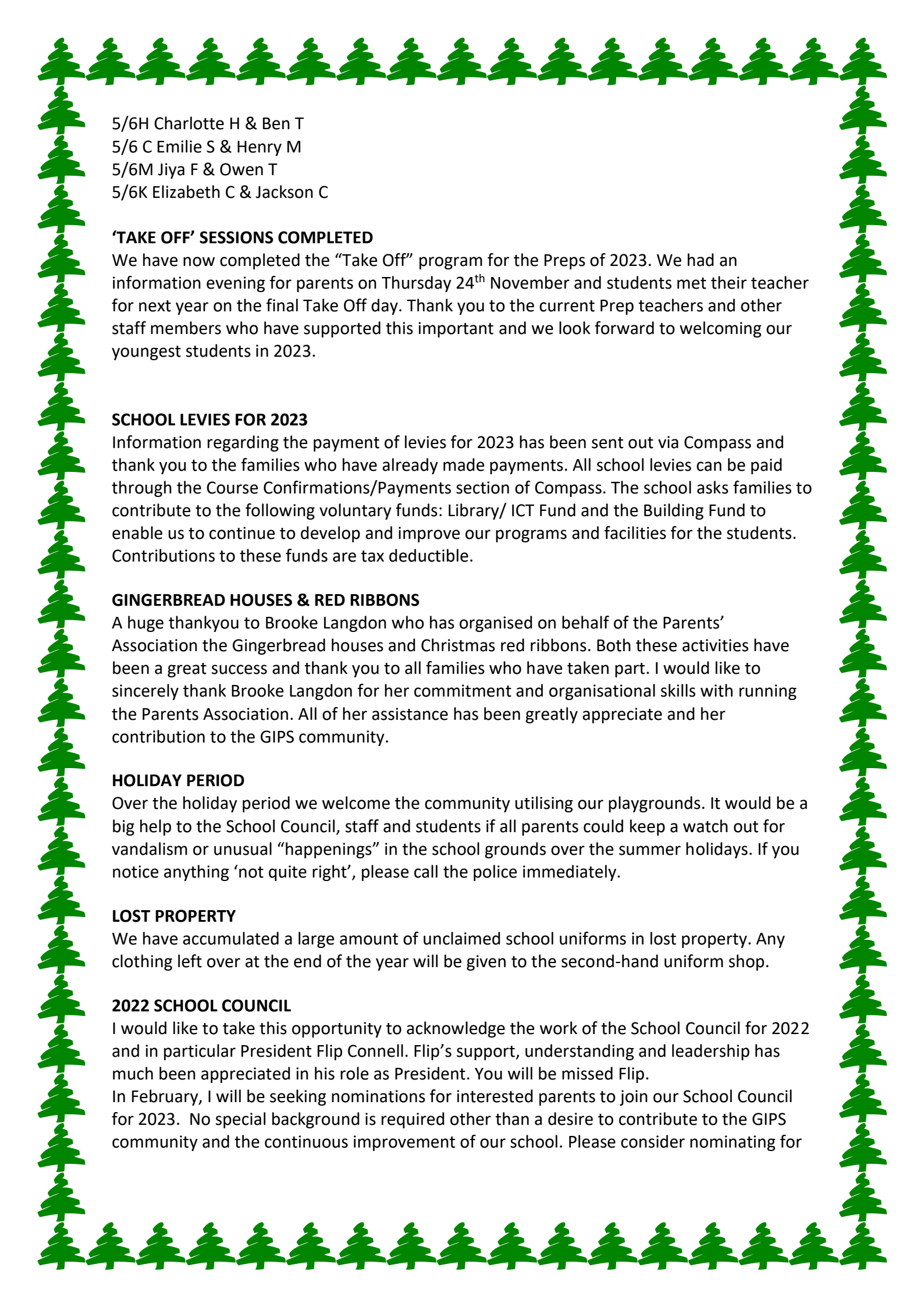
On Friday all students from Year 4 to Prep will have class parties to celebrate the end of the school year. Information from each of the year level arrangements has been, or will be, sent out via Compass. This will be a free dress day for all students.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

A big thank you to our Student Representative Council for their enthusiastic and contributions over the year. Thank you to Emma Black and Lucy Gargano who have facilitated the SRC this year.

Our 2022 SRC were:

- 2B Olivia C & James W
- 2H Camellia Z & Charlie T
- 2SP Homa S & Alice H
- 3C Mimi H & Ewan L
- 3J Izzy V & Charles M
- 4P Ellie F & Louie T
- 4T Mihika S & Lachie T
- 4TJ Kiera F & Ned W



5/6H Charlotte H & Ben T
5/6 C Emilie S & Henry M
5/6M Jiya F & Owen T
5/6K Elizabeth C & Jackson C

‘TAKE OFF’ SESSIONS COMPLETED

We have now completed the “Take Off” program for the Preps of 2023. We had an information evening for parents on Thursday 24th November and students met their teacher for next year on the final Take Off day. Thank you to the current Prep teachers and other staff members who have supported this important and we look forward to welcoming our youngest students in 2023.

SCHOOL LEVIES FOR 2023

Information regarding the payment of levies for 2023 has been sent out via Compass and thank you to the families who have already made payments. All school levies can be paid through the Course Confirmations/Payments section of Compass. The school asks families to contribute to the following voluntary funds: Library/ ICT Fund and the Building Fund to enable us to continue to develop and improve our programs and facilities for the students. Contributions to these funds are tax deductible.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES & RED RIBBONS

A huge thankyou to Brooke Langdon who has organised on behalf of the Parents’ Association the Gingerbread houses and Christmas red ribbons. Both these activities have been a great success and thank you to all families who have taken part. I would like to sincerely thank Brooke Langdon for her commitment and organisational skills with running the Parents Association. All of her assistance has been greatly appreciate and her contribution to the GIPS community.

HOLIDAY PERIOD

Over the holiday period we welcome the community utilising our playgrounds. It would be a big help to the School Council, staff and students if all parents could keep a watch out for vandalism or unusual “happenings” in the school grounds over the summer holidays. If you notice anything ‘not quite right’, please call the police immediately.

LOST PROPERTY

We have accumulated a large amount of unclaimed school uniforms in lost property. Any clothing left over at the end of the year will be given to the second-hand uniform shop.

2022 SCHOOL COUNCIL

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the School Council for 2022 and in particular President Flip Connell. Flip’s support, understanding and leadership has much been appreciated in his role as President. You will be missed Flip.

In February, I will be seeking nominations for interested parents to join our School Council for 2023. No special background is required other than a desire to contribute to the GIPS community and the continuous improvement of our school. Please consider nominating for

one of the several vacancies that will exist due to families finishing at the school or terms of office concluding. Official calls for nominations will appear in the first newsletter for 2023.

GENEROUS DONATION

A parent in the school community, who would like to remain anonymous, presented GIPS with 15 Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon last week. This generous donation is very much appreciated. Thank you.

2023 DATES

The first day back for all students in 2023 is Monday 30th January, with all staff starting on Friday 27th January. Our proposed four Curriculum days for 2023:

1. Friday 27th January (mandated)
2. Wednesday 17th May
3. Wednesday 23rd August
4. Wednesday 15th November

TEAM KIDS

Team Kids will close from 21 December and will open again on 10 January. Book online www.teamkids.com.au

FINALLY

I would like to thank the staff at GIPS. Students are more likely to attend and achieve at school if they feel accepted, valued, respected and included, which is what our staff does very well. What an amazing group of people who are always thinking about the needs of their students. Enjoy a well deserved break.

Thank you to the GIPS community. We pride ourselves on the positive relationship we have together and together we can 'Aim High'.



Happy Holidays from us to you.

Debbie McDermott
Acting Principal

