Principal’s Report

Working Bee

A huge thank you to the families and staff that supported the school yesterday in our first Working Bee for many years. To those that have never seen the AV room, it was quite an experience. As a result of these wonderful and very hard working people, all props have been relocated to our new shipping container located down past the classroom demountables. Costumes and the like have been boxed and are now housed in our other storage container. Having spent many hours with our volunteers in the shipping containers, I understand totally how hot they can become.

The AV room is now totally emptied and can be used as an additional learning space. Our vegetable gardens and chicken area have been totally cleaned up with new plants being put in, new mulch and our chicken pen having a major facelift ready for a new initiative. We are still looking for some wonderful mums or dads that may like to run a Garden Club for our students. We have already had pledges of donations of tools and gloves for the children. So please contact the school if you are interested.

You will also note that the cement areas outside the Canteen and in the undercover area have all been cleaned. Our sandstone at the front entrance to the school is now absolutely beautiful and a welcoming yellow instead of black. Finally the Second Hand Uniform Shop has been sorted and cleaned ready for opening.

I personally can hardly move and I know that there are many other people who would be feeling this way. On behalf of the students at Glenhaven a big thank you to the Working Bee volunteers.

Student Attendance

There have been some recent changes to the recording of school attendance implemented by the Department of Education.

One of the changes includes Exemption from School Attendance. Exemptions from attendance will be granted for the following reasons listed below:

- Exceptional circumstances (including the health of a child where sick leave or alternative enrolment is not appropriate)
- The child being prevented from attending school because of a direction under the Public Health Act 2010
- Employment in the entertainment industry
- Participation in elite arts or elite sporting events

Previously exemption from attendance could be granted for travel outside designated school holidays, however under the new attendance procedures, students travelling during school terms are no longer exempt. If the reasons for travel are accepted, leave is granted but the absence will be recorded as leave on student attendance records.

Information Nights

Many thanks to all staff for their involvement and support with our recent Information Nights. These serve as a way for staff and grades as a whole to outline routines and expectations. Of course parents may wish to discuss more personal matters with staff and I would like to remind parents to please make an appointment for these very personal conversations. We are truly blessed at Glenhaven Public School with numerous staff supporting many and varied programs within the school and also attending whole school and individual professional learning sessions. Many of these involve their attendance directly before or after school, especially on a Wednesday. To ensure that staff can provide a venue and the appropriate time to discuss any issue, advanced notice is required. If there is something that needs immediate attention please contact the Office.

PSSA SUMMER SPORT Round 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Fred Caterson Basketball Stadium, Off Gilbert Rd, Castle Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>Kellyville Park, Memorial Ave, Kellyville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TERM 1, WEEK 5

Dates for your Diary

Monday 23 February
Stage 1 - Milo Cricket

Tuesday 24 February
Stage 3 - Castle Hill High Open Day

Wednesday 25 February
Stage 2 Basketball
School Banking

Thursday 26 February
Scripture Starts

Friday 27 February
PSSA Round 2

Monday 2 March
Stage 2- Human Body
Stage 1 – Milo Cricket

Tuesday 3 March
Stage 1 – Taronga Zoo

Wednesday 4 March
Leadership/Silver/Gold Assembly
Stage 2 – Basketball
School Banking

Thursday 5 March
Think You Know Info Session - Parents

Friday 6 March
PSSA Round 3

Monday 9 March
Stage 1 – Milo Cricket

Tuesday 10 March
P & C Meeting
Zone Swimming

Wednesday 11 March
Stage 2 – Basketball
Zone Basketball
School Banking

Thursday 12 March

Friday 13 March
PSSA Round 4

Monday 16 March
Stage 1 – Milo Cricket
SW Swim Carnival

Continued Pg 2
School Vision Statement
Last year most of our community participated in a very in depth survey which provided the school with information such as ` strengths, areas that require further attention and what future teaching and learning would look like `. These responses provided a very valuable insight into Glenhaven Public School and will direct many future initiatives throughout the next 3 years as part of the Department of Education and Training’s 5 P Planning process.

One of these goals was the development of a new school vision. This new vision statement can be found below.

At Glenhaven Public School we believe that through best practice and commitment to the development of the whole student, we will develop creative thinkers and problem solvers who are engaged and self-directed. We believe that collaboration and the development of strong partnerships with and beyond the school will inspire the development of confident, resilient and innovative learners through giving every child, every opportunity within a culture of growth and performance.

It is committed to working as a community to support students and their families through current comprehensive educational programs and opportunities which are designed to maximise achievement for all and build capacity for success as 21st century global citizens.

Community Engagement
The school will be running a series of parent and community sessions throughout the year. These will cover various areas from curriculum, social media and any areas that will support the school/home relationship. Our first session will be held on Wednesday 4th March at 6.00pm in the School Hall. I have organized for a presentation called Think You Know. This program provides valuable information to parents and teachers about Internet Safety and what is so easily available to students. The school has been concerned at the increasing number of issues that are occurring as a result of social media outside of school hours. It is hoped this program will support our community with managing and identifying areas of danger and how to manage them. This program is not intended for students.

NAPLAN
On Tuesday 24 March a presentation on NAPLAN will be presented by Mrs Reedman. This session will give parents a chance to see the many aspects of this assessment and how “testing” has changed overtime. This presentation was made last year to the P and C with wonderful comments.

Senior Toilet Upgrade
Several weeks ago I held my final meeting with ASSETS to have our senior toilets revamped. The toilets will have new and additional tiling up the walls, new cisterns, paint and taps and acid washing in both the boys and the girl’s toilets. This should occur before the end of term or during the April school holidays.

Medication
If medication is held in the Sick Bay Area for your child, could parents please check with the Office if medication held has expired. At the beginning of each year it is preferable that medical action plans (Asthma, Anaphylaxis or Allergy) are updated with medical professionals and a copy provided to the School Office for our records. This will ensure that medical information for students is up to date and we can provide the best care.

K-2 Home Readers
At the end of last year the school placed an extensive book order to renew and stock up our K-2 Home Readers which cost many thousands of dollars. Last week Mrs Sundfeld finished packaging and labelling these books ready for use from this week. I would ask that students “respect” these books and ensure that they are taken home in the appropriate bag and returned in good condition. I have had a look at these books and I am positive they will encourage reading with all students, with some exciting parent/child reading sessions being sure to evolve.

Hall Sound System
Next week we will be holding our Leadership Assembly as well as our first Silver/Gold Assembly. Recently we have replaced our very old system with a new sound system and speakers. This new system allows for all sound to be heard both inside and outside the hall (at last!) This was made possible by the support of the Johnston family who through their company/connections and their personal free time with installation gave the school a wonderful deal to ensure the school now has a quality system with superb sound that will last for years.

Swimming Carnival
Last week the school held their Annual Swimming Carnival at Knox Grammar. It was a wonderful day with the new venue receiving a big thumbs up from everyone. Congratulations to all students who participated and to those that will proceed to District in a few weeks.

Having a great week!

Kerry Maxwell
Principal
GLENHAVEN SPORTS UPDATE

Hills Council Young Sport Stars Presentation

Young sports stars from all around Sydney and beyond were invited last Wednesday, to an elaborate Presentation Night to recognise their remarkable abilities. Glenhaven's very own Harrison Pilkington (6S) was one of three amazing individuals from the Hills Shire to be named a finalist and have his achievements recognised with the other select sports stars.

Harrison’s dedication to his many sports including AFL, Softball, Touch Football, Basketball, Gymnastics and Dance impressed selectors immediately. It was an absolute pleasure to see Harrison enjoy an eventful night with guest performances including ‘Genesis’.

Attending the ceremony alone was a great honour and reflection of Harrison as an individual. Although Harrison did not receive the major award on the night, his talents and incredible sportsmanship was certainly celebrated in style.

Glenhaven Swimming Carnival

Glenhaven’s Swimming Carnival was held on Monday, 16th February 2015. House spirit filled the venue with seas of red, yellow, blue and green. We have received positive feedback about the new venue at Knox Grammar which allowed the recording and timing to be controlled through the electronic system. The shelter from the sun was also a nice change.

The Carnival ran smoothly thanks to all of the staff and parent volunteers who worked collaboratively to allow for a successful and enjoyable day for our students. Again, the assistance of volunteers is crucial to the running of any carnivals and is always greatly appreciated!

Based on the event results on the day and additional scores for House spirit including wearing colours, the winning House is GODBEE!

Well done to all of the students who participated in the activities on the day and who supported their House. Ribbons for students who placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd overall in events will be presented within the next week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Godbee</td>
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<td>Evans</td>
<td>992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pryor</td>
<td>863</td>
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Zone Swimming

Students who will be representing Glenhaven in the Zone Swimming Carnival will be informed in the next couple of days. Students are selected based on their place and in relation to qualifying times for the carnival. It is important that any student who is named in the Zone Team and cannot attend the event notifies Miss Sharpe as soon as possible so that reserves can be notified.

Miss Sharpe
Sports Co Ordinator
Term 1 Account and Permission Notes – URGENT REMINDER

Thank you to those families who have returned payment and permission notes for activities scheduled for Term 1.

Permission notes and Term Accounts can be found on the school website:

If your child was selected for a PSSA Team, payment and signed PSSA Summer Contracts are now overdue as the competition began last Friday the 20 February.

For any families experiencing financial difficulties, payment plans can be arranged.

Please contact the School Office Manager, Nicole Tuite and be assured all enquiries are strictly confidential.

Walking Safely to School

There have been a few reports by concerned members of our community regarding our children's safety whilst travelling to school. Please be aware that safety is paramount. Take the time to read the tips for walking safely to school found later in this newsletter. It would also be a good idea to take the time to explain these to your children.

David Reid
Assistant Principal

Tips for Walking Safely to School

Walking is fun, but you need to be safe while doing it. Follow these tips to make sure you get to and from school without any problems.

Walk together

Younger children should always walk with an adult. Tell your parents that walking is great exercise and a nice way to spend time together.

If your parents say that you can walk to school on your own, remember these tips:
- Walk with a friend when possible.
- Ask your parents to help you pick a safe route to school; one that avoids dangers.
- Stick to the route you picked with your parents. Don't let friends talk you into shortcuts that are more dangerous.
- When you are near the street, don't push, shove, or chase each other.
- Never hitchhike or take rides from people not arranged by your parents.
- Talk to your parents and teacher about any bullying that may happen during your walk.

Be seen

Remember, drivers may not be able to see you well. Always wear bright-colored clothes and if it is dark or hard to see, carry flashlights or wear reflective gear.

Look for traffic

Watch out for cars and trucks at every driveway and intersection on your walk to school. Look for drivers in parked cars. They may be getting ready to move.

Cross the street safely

1. Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
2. Look left, right, left and behind you and in front of you for traffic.
3. Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing.
4. Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
5. Walk, don’t run across the street.

Obey traffic signs, signals and adult school crossing guards

For more resources and information on Safe Routes to School, please visit the National Center for Safe Routes to School Web site at www.saferroutesto.org.