**IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE**

| Thursday 20th February | - School Assembly, Period 1  
|                         | - Second Hand Uniform Shop,  
|                         | 8.30am – 12 noon, front office | Tuesday 11th March | - Division swimming carnival (selected students) |
| Friday 21st February   | - Year 12 Chemistry Excursion | Thursday 19th March | - Free Dress Day, gold coin donation |
| Tuesday 25th February  | - School Photos | Friday 20th March | - Senior Volleyball, Tennis  
|                         | - Intermediate & Senior Baseball Gala Day | Monday 24th March | - Division Golf (selected students) |
| Wednesday 26th February| - Swimming Carnival | Wednesday 26th March | - Student Free Day (Staff PD Day) no students |
| Thursday 27th February | - PFA Meeting, 7.00pm, staff room | Thursday 27th March | - Regional Swimming (selected students) |
| Monday 3rd March       | - Intermediate Cricket, Volleyball and Tennis | Monday 31st March | - Year 7 Volleyball, tennis, cricket, Super 8s  
|                         |                         | | - Girls Softball Gala Day (all Levels) |
| Mon 3rd - Fri 7th March| - Year 7 Camp, Flinders | Tuesday 1st April | - 2015 SEAL Information Night, 7.00pm |
| Monday 10th March      | - Labour Day Holiday (no students) |

**COLLEGE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**YEAR 7 BBQ AND MUSIC INFORMATION NIGHT**

Year 7 students and their families attended the Year 7 Welcome BBQ and Music Information Night on Tuesday, 11th February. Families had an opportunity to meet Home Group teachers, other staff and their child’s new friends, all in a relaxed atmosphere. It was a very successful night with a great turn out of Year 7 students and their families.

Family members were very impressed with the school for organising such a night and found it a great opportunity to meet their child’s teachers and find out about their adjustment to secondary school and Gleneagles. Gleneagles’ Student Leaders and volunteers helped run the night by assisting in preparing and serving the food, setting up, and packing up all the furniture. They did this voluntarily, cheerfully and with maturity, and were great ambassadors for the College.

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS**

School photographs will take place on Tuesday, 25th February. Payment on the day is through filling out the Credit Card Section or with cash to the photographer. These are the only payment options. To avoid disappointment on the day, please note this date in your calendar and put the money aside in the coming weeks. The school does not handle payments and is unable to provide change for students on the day.

**COLLEGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2014**

Councillors are elected for a two year term. This year, three parent representative positions and two DEECD employee representative position fall vacant. Later in this newsletter there is a page that seeks to address questions parents may have about what is involved in being on Council. Interested parents may also like to contact the Principal, Sue Pedledsen to discuss the opportunity.

Nominations will open on 21st February and close on 28th February. Further details on how to nominate will be published in next week’s newsletter. Nominations will be assessed and if an election is required, the ballot will be held between 7th and 17th March. Elected Councillors would commence their duties at the next Council meeting held on 31st March. Council meets a minimum of eight times per year and current meetings are held at 7.00pm on a Monday night. Future dates can be located on the College website. Being on Council is a great opportunity to contribute to development of the College and its policies.

* Please see more information on Page 4 of this newsletter.

**NEW STAFF MEMBER**

Ms Sunita Singh has resigned her teaching position and is planning to return to India. Marta Ivkov has joined our staff and has taken over the teaching load. We welcome her to Gleneagles and note how well she has fitted in already.
ROAD SAFETY ISSUES
Parents are requested to be mindful of student safety before and after school in relation to traffic:
- Please do not double park in the streets outside the College when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Students are not to cross the road at the roundabout located on the corner of Reema Boulevard and Hanna Drive. Students are to use the supervised School Crossings.
- U Turns in Reema Boulevard and Hanna Drive should be avoided.
- Please obey all traffic and parking signs outside the school.

Your co-operation in these areas will be greatly appreciated.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE AMBULANCE COVER ARRANGEMENTS
Parents are reminded that the DEECD (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. These costs may be recoverable from the Department where an injury is caused by the negligence of the DEECD, a school council or their employees or volunteers. Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers and can be obtained by school councils on a whole-of-school basis, or by parents/guardians for individual students.
- Parents/guardians of students who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs; and
- Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers.

PFA MEETING, THURSDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2014, 7.00PM
The PFA kicks off for 2014 with the first meeting on Thursday, 27th February, 7.00pm in the Staff Room. It’s a relaxed format. Come along and see what it’s about. Light supper provided. All parents welcome. Any questions please contact pfa@gleneagles.vic.edu.au or telephone Jen Riley at the College Tel 9708 1319.

SCHOOL CARNIVALS 2014
The Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 26th February 2014. The Carnival Permission form needs to be returned to the College by Wednesday, 19th February.

EMA
Applications for EMA close on Friday, 28th February 2014. Parents must submit their forms and a copy of their current Health Care Card to the Bursar’s office by 3.00pm.

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 TAKE HOME COMPUTER PROGRAM
There are two forms to be filled in and signed by parents/guardians who have been unable to attend any of the Take Home Computer briefing sessions:
- The Acceptable Use Agreement Take Home Computer Program 2014 form signed by both student and parent/guardian.
- The Supplementary Take Home form 2014 signed by the parent/guardian.

These documents are available on the website and need to be returned to Mr. Bunce in the Maths Office. When both forms have been returned, we can then negotiate with the student the best time to pick up the netbook.

Russell Bunce, ICT Operations Manager

HOMEWORK PROGRAM - THURSDAYS
Our very popular Homework Program begins again Thursday, 20th February from 3.00pm-4.30pm in the Library each week. This is supervised by a number of staff and volunteer tutors from the community through our links with the Migrant Resource Centre, the City of Casey and The Smith Family. All students attending are to sign in at the library desk. It is important to note that students should only be attending if they want help with work or a place to study/attend to complete homework and assignments.

Parents/Guardians and students please note that the Homework Club is not just a place to wait and catch up with friends until you get collected after school; if you are there you need to be focused on your work and understand that other students around you need you to be working quietly. We have created a great Homework Program and teachers volunteer their time to help out enthusiastically, so let’s all make it an even better year than 2013!

It would be much appreciated if any families would be able to donate a packet of biscuits to contribute to our catering for the students. At the end of a busy day at school, I think the students need a snack so they can re-focus for the Homework Program. Any contributions are welcome and they can be dropped off to Debbie at the office. Phill Start from the City of Casey drops off apples most weeks and this is most appreciated by the students.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM – FRIDAY MORNINGS
The Breakfast Program runs from 7.30am until 8.10am each Friday morning in A3. Healthy breakfast and good company available. All students and staff welcome. The first Breakfast Program for the year is Friday, 21st February. Come along and check it out! Looking forward to my helpers and some new apprentices as well.

Maxine Foster, Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Sue Peddlesden, Adele Duffy, Kathie Toth & Paul Thorne
**Year 10 Work Experience**

All Year 10 students should currently be looking for their work placement. **Work experience week is Monday 16th to Friday 20th June** (second last week of Term 2). Arrangement forms must be signed by the employer before the end of Term 1 (4th April). Parents can help by asking their friends, relatives and neighbours if they can organise a work experience placement for their child. Students are also encouraged to contact businesses themselves - it must have at least two employees. Some industries are not permitted and students are not allowed to operate machinery or work at heights.

For any queries, or if your business can take on other Gleneagles students, please contact Chris Wood, wood.christine.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

**VCE Career Interviews**

All Year 12 students are required to book in for a career interview this Term to discuss their options for study after Year 12 including pathway programs and special consideration. Year 11 students are also welcome to have an individual interview in Term 1 or 2. The sign up sheet is next to the Careers Office door.

**At Monash Seminar Series**

If you are in VCE and would like to find more about specific Monash degrees, attend one of the At Monash seminars in March (held 6.30pm to 8.00pm):

- Tuesday, 4th March 2014 - Business and Economics, Peninsula.
- Thursday, 6th March 2014 - Nursing, Midwifery and Emergency Health, Peninsula.
- Wednesday, 12th March 2014 Business and Economics, Clayton campus.
- Tuesday, 18th March 2014 - Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Peninsula campus.

**Tax File Applications**

If you are aged 15 and above, you will need a Tax File Number before you apply for a part-time job. Pick up your Tax file application from the Careers Office. The Australian Tax office takes about five weeks to process the application and will post your Tax file number directly to your house.

**Chris Wood, Careers Co-ordinator**

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**YOGA CLASSES**

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, 7.30AM**

**IN THE GYM**

Are you looking for a way to get fit, feel good about yourself and combat stress and anxiety? Morning Yoga sessions are held on **Wednesday mornings at 7.30am in the Shed.**

Please wear something comfortable and bring your school uniform to get changed into afterwards.

**Ms Boudreau, PE/Health**

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**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP**

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on

**Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**8.30am to 12 noon**

at the front office
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2014

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

What is a School Council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the Glenelg School Council?
- A mandated elected Parent category – five members of our Council are parents of students currently enrolled at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category – the Principal of the school is automatically one of these members and there are four members in total on Council.
- Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the Council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. GSC Council has three co-opted members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual School Council elections. In the election at the end of February we will be calling for nominations for three parent and two DEECD representatives. Current members of Council may be eligible to re-nominate.

Why is Parent Membership so Important?
Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:
- standing for election as a member of the School Council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The Principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the School Council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the Principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on Council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to Council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the Principal for further information.

GLENEAGLES BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAYS AT LUNCH TIME
Come along and have some fun. We have over 60 members! We share our reading, make book selections for the library, join in competitions, meet authors, watch films and generally enjoy the company of people who love reading.

Lynne Moller, Library Co-ordinator
In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost a week every term - that’s four weeks of school per year.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – When students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Getting Teens on Track

➢ Is your teenager not listening to you?
➢ How can parenting teens be easier and fun?
➢ Where’s the balance between rules and independence?

Come along and join other parents/carers to discuss experiences, ideas and learn strategies in a relaxed, friendly place.

When: Wednesdays for 5 weeks
5th March – 2nd April 2014
6.30pm – 9.00pm

Where: Youth Information Centre
Stuart Avenue (next to Library)
Hampton Park

Facilitators: Sandra Phillips from Parentzone
Dani Williams from Casey Youth Services

Bookings & Enquiries: Sandra Phillips at Parentzone
Ph: 1300 984 011 or 0447 500355
sandra.kelly@anglicarevic.org.au

Refreshments Provided

For Parents or Carers of Teens/Preteens aged 11+

NO COST – but bookings required