



Empowering learners to flourish and make a positive difference



8th December 2011



Every year on the 5th of December, the Dutch celebrate Sinterklaas, originally the patron of children among others.

There is not one single family in Holland that does not in some way or another honor the old "Bishop (Sinterklaas)" and his helpers with a party, a small get-together or by going to someone else's house to celebrate. Presents and chocolate letters, cookies called peppernoten and hot chocolate are laden on the table for children and grown-ups alike to enjoy.

In Hong Kong we celebrated the arrival of Sinterklaas and his helpers on his steam boat on the 26th of November where a throng of children were singing their hearts out to welcome him.

The children then put their shoes out before going to bed with a carrot for his horse, and all "good" children receive a present in return in the morning.

Thank you to Mrs De Boer (Raphael, Emanuela & Anastasia) for this week's contribution and for sharing this information with the Year 1's on Tuesday.



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,



I'm sure you'll agree that Sports Day was a superb event. It was wonderful to see all of the children enjoying physical activity and loving the magnificent outdoor environment at KCC! Thanks to the parents and caregivers who attended and for those of you who got into the spirit by dressing up, helping out or competing in the parent race! I would like to acknowledge Gay Thompson who did an amazing job of coordinating this fabulous event and ordering the wonderful weather too! Many photos have already been posted on the school website. Click here to view the photos.

<http://www.glenealy.edu.hk/news-and-events/photo-galleries/sports-day-0>

We are the Champions!

You will see in the body of the newsletter the report from Gay Thompson about the Hong Kong Netball Tournament, which our A and B team both competed in, with great results.

HUGE congratulations to our A team who won the Champions Trophy for the tournament. This is an amazing result considering we were competing against many schools twice or three times oursize. Huge congratulations to the girls and to our top coaches Ms Thompson and Mrs Rutkowski. A fabulous effort – we are so proud! We will be making a small presentation to the girls at assembly on Friday between 1.50-2.30pm.

Strategic Overview

As a reminder a one-page overview outlining the strategic plan with key areas of focus for 2011/2013 can be located on the school website by clicking

<http://www.glenealy.edu.hk/about-us/strategic-planning-20112013>.

Please note the revised mission statement

Empowering children to flourish and make a positive difference.

ISA Writing Assessment Results Years 4-6

Please note that we have now received the results from the ISA (International Schools Assessment) writing tasks for year 4-6. All children in these grades sat two writing tasks. One of these involved writing a story (narrative) and the other involved composing an exposition (giving opinions for and against). ISA results will be sent home in your child's diary on Friday this week. Please look out for them. The scoring should be fairly self-explanatory. However, if you would like any clarification please do not hesitate to contact one of the VP's or myself.

Interim Reports

Teachers will report to parents and caregivers after the children have completed their first 2 Units of Inquiry. These interim reports outlining progress in these units will be sent home next Tuesday for years 2, 4 and 6. Reports for years 1, 3 and 5 will be sent home within the first 2 weeks of next term. This one page report (years 2, 4 and 6) will be put into your child's diary next Tuesday so please look out for it.

Farewell to Ms Stephan



Many of you will know that Michaela is leaving us this term. Michaela, in her role of PYP Coordinator has been instrumental in positively moving the school forward to achieve IB World Status. Michaela has worked alongside staff and children in her curriculum coordination role and will be missed greatly by her colleagues and the kids at Glenealy. We wish Michaela well in her move to Canada and know she will continue to be a positive influence in many more schools in the future. Thank you Michaela from the entire community! We wish you well. Dave Buckley will be taking on the PYP Coordinator role as part of his VP responsibilities from term 2 onwards.

Last week of term

It has been a long first term and you will have noticed I'm sure that many of the children are very tired and ready for a holiday. We look forward to seeing you at some of our celebrations next week. The Years 1 and 2 Christmas Concerts will be a real treat and we also look forward to hearing the sounds of Christmas Carols floating from our rooftop. Do pop into the office and school hall to see the wonderful Xmas hoop decorations the children have made for Christmas. The school is looking wonderfully festive! Enjoy your celebrations too!

Kind Regards

Brenda

曲鲍宁黛

NETBALL - ESF NETBALL TOURNAMENT



Both our A and B teams took part in this annual tournament at C.I.S. and Quarry Bay School. 20 teams took part including all the ESF Schools and several other International Schools.

Each school was seeded into groups of 5.

The A and B teams played really well in all their matches and both reached the quarter-finals! A great effort by all the girls. The B team played Kellett and lost 2-3 which was fantastic as Kellett were the eventual finalists. All the teachers who attended were most impressed with the players. Meanwhile, the A team played G.S.I.S. in the quarter-finals and won 3-1, they then beat Discovery Bay School 3-1 in the semi-finals. This took them to the finals V Kellett. It was a great game and Glenealy emerged as the winners by beating Kellett 3-1. All in all it was a great morning; great venue, sunny skies and lots of netball! Glenealy had their usual fantastic parental support as can be seen from the pictures. Children might want to look on Gloodle under extra-curricular activities and netball to see the latest slideshow.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AND CAROLS ON THE ROOF

Tuesday 13th December – Year 1 and 2 Christmas Celebration with the Orchestra

Dress rehearsal at 11:40am for the whole school – we would prefer children (aged 5 and under) and helpers to attend the dress rehearsal leaving more space for parents at the evening performance.

Evening Performance 6:30pm

Year 1 & 2 students please go to their classrooms at 6:15pm to be ready for their performance at 6:30pm

Wednesday 14th December -

Carols on the Roof – 6pm, all choir members to meet in the hall at 5:45pm

TAKING ACTION FOR UNICEF

More than 13,000 runners took part in the annual UNICEF charity run on Sunday 26th November at Hong Kong Disneyland resort. During the past 4 years HK\$28 million has been raised to support UNICEF's Aids prevention work to help children in over 150 different countries. Among the 13,000 runners were two members of the Glenealy staff, Mr Buckley and Ms. Tintoska who competed in the 10km race. Well done also to everyone else who participated particularly a few parents who achieved personal bests in the 10km and 21km half marathon - you know who you are! Fabulous effort and all for a good cause too!



MEDICAL ROOM UPDATE

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

In light of our recent effort to increase the school community's awareness of Glenealy being 'Nut Free', there is an article in the December edition of Playtimes that you may find interesting to read. "Food for Thought" is about the rise of food allergies in children today. The article talks about various allergies throughout a child's life as well as listing signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. In our school community alone, we have several children who may suffer from a severe anaphylactic reaction when exposed to certain food sources. We believe being aware of these signs and symptoms is important for all parents to know. There are a few copies of the December issue of Playtimes in the downstairs playground and the School Office..

Winter is well and truly upon us which means a start to the dreaded cold and flu season! We ask if you can please keep your child at home if they are not feeling well. Increases in temperature along with a cough, sore throat, sniffles, runny nose and lethargy are all the first signs of a cold/flu. Sending children to school with these symptoms increases the risk of transferring their illness to other children, their teachers and other staff members.

We appreciate your help on being vigilant in these circumstances as it is in the best interest of our school community. As always if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Thanks,
Jo & Roisin

PTA NEWS

Glenealy Long Sleeved Shirts and Blouses

As long sleeved shirts/blouses are not part of our standard stock we will be placing a 'one off' order before the end of term. Order forms were sent home with the children on Wednesday so if you would like to place an order please do so by Wednesday 14th December 2011.

Please note: We will not be able to process any orders receive after this date.

PTA Uniform Shop Volunteers Needed!!

If you have some spare time we need more volunteers for our Monday afternoon opening sessions (2.45-3.15) for next term. Please call Scarlett Mattoli (9080 8491) or email ska@mattoli.com if you are interested in helping out.

The Glenealy School PTA Committee would like to wish you all happy holidays.

Uniform Donation



Each year The PTA Shop receives many donations of old uniforms. Where possible we try to recycle these for our own children but sometimes marks or other minor defects render them unsalable but still usable. Many Glenealy parents and staff have very generously given their time to help find good homes for the extra items in the past.

This year an organisation called NewDay Asia has helped us to redistribute our old summer uniforms to some very needy children in Cambodia who have little else. We are very proud to have been a part of this effort and hope that our winter uniforms will soon be finding their way to some children in China who would have a hard time finding warm clothing otherwise.



While the shop does not have the capacity to take on all of the clothes that our children might go through in their careers at Glenealy, please do consider the environment and those less fortunate than ourselves when discarding old uniforms.

Thank you,

Your Glenealy School PTA Committee

If you would like to learn more about NewDay Asia please see their website at

<http://www.newdayasia.org/>

GLENEALY SCHOOL LEAVERS

If you will be withdrawing your child at the end of this term, Friday 16th December, or anytime during Term 2 please inform Jane in the school office as soon as possible.



Glenealy Students hit the court in ESL ATA Team Tennis competition.

Players from numerous ESF, International, and local schools across HK came together on the 19th November to play in the ATA ESL team competition held on the courts of South Island School



Players competed in their respective age groups 7&U, 9&U and 11&U both individually and within a team. The competition catered to players not only new to tennis but also for more experienced match players in a fun friendly competitive environment.

Glenealy School had a few representatives who did very well and enjoyed their events:
7&U -Ruby Deakin 9&U - Tom Deakin, 11&U - Byron Daly.

Congratulations to Byron Daly who was a key player in the 11&U winning team ' ESF combo' a team comprised of players from Glenealy, Bradbury and Peak. A great competition and performance on the day!

There will be further competitions and events run by Australasia Tennis Aces next year, so if you are keen tennis player and want to test your skills and accelerate your learning through competition the ATA team would love to see you out on the court in one of their events.

Upcoming tennis opportunities: ATA's popular **ESL Tennis Christmas Camps** (South Island School 19-23rd, and 28-30th Dec) **TERM 2 - ESL ATA Tennis at Glenealy School** - Enrol Now: www.esf.org.hk or email: sports@esf.org.hk.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please note that the following activities taking place in our school or at outside venues are provided by independent organisations and therefore cannot be endorsed by Glenealy School

Information coming home with the children today:

- **TLC Kids 2012 Term 2 Applications Now Open**

TLC Kids has been working hard on our new programmes for Term 2, 2012. We will be continuing to offer the same schedule for our Maths & Science every Thursday afternoons.

For families going away for the holidays, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas. Our 200hkd off Early Bird Special ends on Friday 16th December so get your Term 2 application in early! There is also Christmas Camp held at nearby various locations for students who are staying in Hong Kong. An Early Bird Discount of 100hkd also applied to Christmas Camp applicants and ends Monday 12th December. For more information, contact us today.

Looking forward to another positive term at GS. Happy Holidays!

Best Regards,

TLC Kids Team

info@tlckids.com.hk

- **Chess Lessons – Spring Term**
- **ActiveKids Winter Camp**