



# 'Strive to Achieve'



25<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

## **Welcome Back!**

We have had a lovely few days back at school with the children excitedly catching up with friends and getting back into school routines. Welcome to all of our new students including our Year One students and to our new families who are joining the community. We trust that you will find the school a warm and welcoming community to be part of.

Many of you will already have seen the wonderful renovations that have taken place over the holidays resulting in a much more open and modern appearance for many parts of the school. The refurbished facilities include: office areas, medical rooms, a support centre for individual needs work, kitchen, PTA area, staffroom, multi-purposes/art room and a resource room. Please take a look at the photos in the body of the newsletter and when you are in the school please feel free to take a look around.

As a reminder, School Newsletters will be sent out to you on a Thursday each fortnight. The next newsletter will be sent on Thursday 8 September.

## **New Staff Members**

We welcome new staff to Glenealy in a variety of roles.

Dave Buckley – Vice Principal, Mya Truong – Year 2 teacher (2T), Amanda Gemmell – EA 2/0 and Ben Tang - ICT Technician. Welcome also to Cora Ha who will be teaching music one day per week.

Jennine Harding will manage the Individual Needs Department, previously called Special Needs. Jennine has a number of new staff or existing staff in new roles. The Individual Needs team of EA's includes: Chanchal Khilani, Olivia Bratsanos, Irene Lam, Stephanie Mulvahill and Sharon Nielsen,



**From left to right: Ben, Sharon, Dave, Mya, Amanda**

A note from Mr Buckley – Vice Principal

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Glenealy community for making my introduction to life at this lovely school a very pleasant one.

Both Parents and Teachers have been very welcoming. The classrooms are alive with enthusiasm and already the passion for learning I witnessed on previous visits is in full effect.

The students I have met so far are full of exciting stories of their summer break and are clearly enjoying being reunited with their friends. Like myself some children are new to the school but appear to be making new friends with ease and settling in nicely, a clear sign of the caring nature of the community here.

For those of you who want to know a little more about me, I'm originally from Wales in the UK though have now lived in Asia for 8 years (6 of which have been here in Hong Kong.) I have worked in a range of schools in the UK, Thailand and Hong Kong having most recently worked a little further up the hill at Peak school.

I am a father of two beautiful children: my son Cian (who is 2 years and 2 months old) and my daughter Anwen (who is nearly 8 months old). I have a background in Education and Psychology and have held leadership positions in a range of curriculum areas including P.E, humanities, science and mathematics. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months as we work together to continue moving forward in partnership as a school and a community.

### **Meet the Teacher Evening and PTA AGM**

Please keep the evening of **Thursday 15 September** free. This will be a time to meet your child's teacher and to find out about routines and organization in the classroom. The PTA AGM will follow this evening at 7.15pm. Please see details about the AGM in the body of the newsletter.

Year 1 : The Meet the Teacher session will be held in your child's classroom from 6.00-7.10pm. During this extended session we will include information about Year 1 baseline assessments and how these are used.

Year 2-6 - Meet the Teacher sessions will be held in your child's classroom from 6.30pm until 7.10pm.

### **Snack Eating for Year 5 and 6 children**

Year 5 and 6 children eat their morning snack downstairs in the playground. Therefore please provide snacks that are easy to carry so that children won't need to take flasks or large containers down to the playground. Lunch provision will remain the same i.e. this will be supervised in the classroom.

### **School Diary and Excursion Invoices**

Your child will have been issued with a school diary by now. The payment for this has been included in the invoice for excursions. Please take time to look through the diary with your child/ren and ensure it is returned to school each day. You will find some important messages in the front and where possible we have provided you with dates in advance for the upcoming year. We hope this helps with your planning and organization.

We have moved to an easier system for payment of excursions this year. We will issue an invoice for approx \$500.00 for excursions, which will cover most of the excursions related to Units of Inquiry throughout the year. We feel this will be an easier way rather than invoicing you each term. You will be notified the cost of each trip as and when they occur. Any outstanding money will be refunded at the end of the year if necessary.

The staff and I look forward to seeing you all back this week.

Kind Regards

Brenda

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## **MATHLETICS AT GLENEALY SCHOOL**

I am pleased to announce that thanks to funding from our highly supportive and very generous PTA we have been able to open Mathletics accounts for all students from years 3-6. Mathletics is the world's most used maths educational website and will be an excellent tool in helping students to consolidate and reinforce the mathematical concepts and number strategies taught within school. The programme has a great deal of depth and can be tailored to the individual needs of each student, providing an extra level of support to home learning and the important parent teacher partnership.

All students within years 3-6 will be bringing home a username and password, which we recommend you record somewhere safe, as this will be needed in order to access their account at:

<http://www.mathletics.com.au/>

Please spend some time looking at the site with your child and ensure they have an opportunity to access it and explore. Initially, over the next week or so, the students will be encouraged to simply explore the site, play some games, create their avatar and enjoy honing their mental maths skills (which are an important factor in building students' confidence and number knowledge.) As the students become more familiar with the site, the teachers will begin to build in more depth to the activities, setting tasks that reflect more closely the specific concepts being taught and worked upon in the students' classrooms at that time. This will also provide you with a further insight into the areas of mathematics being covered by your child with the support section offering handy tutorials on some of the strategies taught.

David Buckley

## **PARENTS AS PARTNERS PROGRAMME**

Here at Glenealy we understand that parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life and their support can play a vital role at all stages of education. Parents are the first and ongoing educators of their child and, as such, should receive information and support in order to help develop their child's learning at home and in the community.

Effective home-school partnerships are essential to ensure that each child gets the most out of their education. It is widely acknowledged that parents who take on a supportive role in their child's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour.

At Glenealy we seek opportunities to encourage a meaningful partnership, enabling parents to engage with school and their child's education. Through this approach we hope to develop together as a community of learners striving to provide the best education for the children in our care.

To this end under the heading of 'Parents as Partners' we will be providing a range of opportunities to ensure that you are well informed about your child's education and are able to support their learning.

### **These will include:**

**Unit of Inquiry overviews:** These documents will provide essential information about your child's current unit of inquiry, including the transdisciplinary links made within the unit and different ways in which you can support your child with their learning at home and in the greater community.

**Parents as Partners Workshops:** Over the course of the year there will be opportunity to attend a range of workshops aimed at providing a greater understanding of your child's education. Please keep a look out in future newsletters for the dates of workshops scheduled.

**The Homework Grid:** Homework is a vehicle for continuing, purposeful and meaningful learning at home. It can also inform parents about the student's learning programme and progress. (For further information please refer to the Glenealy School Home Learning Policy).

**Meet the Teacher:** Thursday 15th September – This meeting really is a must for parents as it provides you with essential information about class routines and expectations for the year ahead.

David Buckley



School Office



School Office



Art Room



Kitchen



Support Centre



Support Centre

### **MEDICAL ROOM NOTICE**

Welcome back. We hope you have all had a chance to recharge your batteries and are ready for an exciting healthy year ahead!

We would just like to remind parents that Glenealy promotes a 'Nut Free' zone. We have several students with severe allergies to peanuts/nut based products. We seek your assistance in ensuring that your child's lunch box does not contain any of these products.

Also, the weather lately has just been magnificent. A reminder to all students that a hat is required at snack and lunch play. No hat no play. Glenealy School hats are available from the uniform shop if you don't already have one. Please ensure your child's name and year is clearly marked on them.

Lastly, if your child needs medication whilst at school, please come up and have a chat to either one of us. Glenealy uses a standardised medication form which we are happy to run through with you. Copies are available from the medical room or can be downloaded from the school web site.

### **Immunisation for Year 1 and Year 6**

The Department of Health Immunisation Team will be visiting Glenealy on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September to provide Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) immunisation to Year One students and any eligible Year 6 pupils and Hepatitis B immunisation to Year 6 students.

Forms will be sent home with students on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Please complete and return to the Medical Room by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September whether or not you wish your child to be immunised. Immunisation records / books must be sent along with the consent form and will be ready for collection after Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Many thanks,

Jo and Roisin

### **PTA NEWS**

#### **Welcome**

Your Glenealy School PTA Committee would like to welcome all new and returning students and families to the new school year.

#### **Welcome back Coffee**

Parents and Caregivers - Please join us for a cup of coffee or tea on Monday 5th September on the playground from 8.15 to 9am.

#### **PTA AGM**

We look forward to you joining us to toast another year with a lovely glass of wine and hear about all the activities held over the last year. We aim to have a 20 minute AGM this year. This is also the time we will be retiring all members of the current committee and assigning new roles. Please sign up now to join the committee, forms are available in the office. If you would like any more information about what we have done, please have a look at our website pages at <http://www.glenealy.edu.hk/pta>

#### **Class Parents**

We already have a number of volunteers that have come forward to be class parents this year. If you would also like to help organise ad hoc coffee mornings/lunch or wine & cheese/social activities to get parents and caregivers from your child's class together, please check our webpage for more details on the role: [www.glenealy.edu.hk/news-events/pta/class-parents](http://www.glenealy.edu.hk/news-events/pta/class-parents)

## New class parents and vacancies

### **Class Parents (2011/12)**

1K	Sharon Chau	1K	Dipti Chauhan
1M	Tamara Toon	1M	<b>VACANT</b>
2O	Wendy Mahbubani	2O	Melissa Shadforth
2T	Sudha Panigrahi	2T	<b>VACANT</b>
3S	Scarlett Mattoli	3S	<b>VACANT</b>
3T	Vanessa dos Santos	3T	<b>VACANT</b>
4A	Ada Wang	4A	<b>VACANT</b>
4L	Katherine Dale	4L	<b>VACANT</b>
5M	Mabel Fowlds	5M	Vanessa dos Santos
5S	Jaya Pursram	5S	<b>VACANT</b>
6B	Joanne Clark	6B	Stephanie Matthysek
6M	Liz Moser	6M	<b>VACANT</b>

Please contact Wendy on [wendy.mahbubani@hotmail.com](mailto:wendy.mahbubani@hotmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

### **PTA Uniform Shop**

#### Volunteers needed!

The PTA Uniform Shop urgently needs volunteers to keep the shop open! The PTA runs the school Uniform Shop as a service to the community. It offers parents the convenience of one-stop uniform shopping on the school grounds and our children benefit as all the profits are fed back into the school to enhance their education.

We rely on the friendly support of volunteers to work in the shop, to keep it running. Having bid a reluctant farewell to many of our long-term volunteers at the end of last school year as they or their children moved on, we are looking to recruit people for the following shifts:

Monday afternoon 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Thursday morning 8:20 - 8:45 a.m.

Ideally, we would like to recruit enough people to form two teams of three for each shift. Teams would then work alternate weeks - a commitment of just 45 minutes every two weeks for each volunteer. Whether you are new to the school community, or an established parent, working in the shop offers a unique opportunity to get to know the school and interact with other parents and children. And don't feel that you have to commit for the whole school year - perhaps you'd like to try it out until Christmas, see how it fits with your family and other commitments and decide later if you want to continue. You'll still be making a huge contribution to keeping this valuable service running. If you think you can help, please contact Christine Meaney on 9042 5560 or by email on [nfabode@netvigator.com](mailto:nfabode@netvigator.com) - she'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

#### **Uniform Sale Day - thanks to all our volunteers!**

The Uniform Sale Day held last Friday, 19th August was extremely successful and the PTA would like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteers who provided such a warm welcome to the school year for our new, and returning families.

### **Out of stock items**

Demand on sale days is always a little unpredictable and parents are advised that new stock of the following summer items is on order. Once delivered, we will let parents know via the school newsletter.

Currently out of stock: Raincoats - Size S, Trousers - Size L, PE Shorts, Kennedy (Red) - Size XS, PE Shirts, Robinson (Blue) - Size L

Please call, write or catch us on the playground if you have any questions and of course, have a great year!

Your PTA Committee

[pta@gs.esf.edu.hk](mailto:pta@gs.esf.edu.hk)

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

## **SANSKRITI**

Let your child experience learning Hindi via fun activities, interactive games and tutorials. Every Friday at Glenealy from 3.10 to 4.10 pm. Classes start from Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

Please visit [www.brilliantlearning.com.hk](http://www.brilliantlearning.com.hk). Classes

Or Join [www.facebook.com/sanskriti.brilliant.learning](https://www.facebook.com/sanskriti.brilliant.learning).

For more details please call Geetanjali at 98300612.