4 December 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians

Your son/daughter will be completing a Textile based unit in Technology in Semester 1 or 2, 2014.

An outline of the Year 8 Technology class includes:

- an introduction to the Textiles Room
- safety sheets and samples on the Bernina Sewing Machines that we use at school
- a number of fabric decoration techniques and construction techniques
- a pencil case and a cushion cover. This material is supplied by the school.

The students will then be making elastic waist shorts which can be used as pyjamas, boxer shorts or casual shorts. We will have lessons on how to use a commercial pattern and how to follow written instructions.

Each student will need to supply their own material. If your son/daughter does not wish to make a pair of shorts for themselves, it would be an ideal opportunity to sew for younger brothers/sisters/cousins etc. Making a pair of shorts for the Christmas Boxes that the school supports would be a great way to give to those children who often own very minimal clothing.

Please encourage them to buy a cotton based fabric, which includes flannelette (if they would like to make pyjama pants for winter), polycotton or lightweight cottons. A stretch material is also suitable if the stretch is quite firm. Using satin or synthetic ‘shiny’ material may look great but will be difficult to sew for a first garment. (Lincraft at Erina Fair, Erina Liquidation Centre (was Clarksons Cash and Carry) at Erina and Spotlight at West Gosford are the three main stores where you can purchase material).

The school holidays will be an ideal time for your son/daughter to purchase material.

- If the material is around 112 cms wide, they will need twice the finished length they want their shorts/long pants/three quarter pants to be. Add another 10 cms for hem and waist band. Usually 1 1/2 metres of material will make a pair of shorts and 2 metres a pair of long pants.
- If the material is 150 cm wide, then just the finished length plus the 10 cm will be fine. In this case ¾ metre for shorts and 1 1/4 metres for long pants. (There are a number of very tall boys in the classes who will need to buy more than the suggested amounts.)

If the students finish their pyjama pants before the end of the semester, they may wish to purchase a singlet to appliqué to complete the outfit.

Please email me at cgibbins@gpcc.nsw.edu.au if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Gibbins
Technology Teacher – Textiles