8 April 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians

Your son/daughter is completing a Textile based unit in Technology in Semester 1. The Year 8 Technology class have just completed an introduction to the Textiles Room. They have completed safety sheets and samples on the Bernina Sewing Machines that we use at school. The class has completed a number of fabric decoration techniques and construction techniques. They have completed a pencil case and are now applying these skills to a cushion cover.

In Term 2 the students will be making elastic waist shorts which can be used as pyjamas, boxer shorts or casual shorts. We will have a few lessons on how to cut out a commercial pattern and how to understand instructions. The school provides a limited choice of material for the students to use. Sometimes, the students like to supply their own material as the colour and pattern on their material may be more to their liking.

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. Using satin or synthetic ‘shiny’ material may look great but will be difficult to sew for a first garment. (Lincraft at Erina Fair, Clarksons Cash and Carry at Erina and Spotlight at West Gosford are the three main stores where you can purchase material).

The school holidays may be an ideal time for your son/daughter to purchase material if they would like to.

I have talked to the class about how much material to buy. If the material is around 120 cms wide, they will need twice the finished length they want (be it short, three quarter or long) plus about 10 cms for hem and waist band. Usually 1 metre 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 ½ metre for shorts and 1 metre for long pants.

If the students finish their pyjama pants before the end of next term, they may wish to purchase a singlet or long sleeved top to appliqué to complete the outfit.

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

Yours sincerely

Cherylyn Gibbins
Technology Teacher – Textiles