

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**6<sup>th</sup> February, Fri**

Nominations for School Council Open

**11<sup>th</sup> February, Wed**

Sec Immunisations

**13<sup>th</sup> February, Fri**

-Whole School Assembly

-Valentine Day Activities

**16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Pri Stomp Dance Performance

**16<sup>th</sup> February, Monday**

Nominations for School Council close

**17<sup>th</sup> February, Tues**

Sec Swim Sports Day

**18<sup>th</sup> February, Wed**

-School Photos

-Yr 8 Inland Life Saving

**19<sup>th</sup> February, Thurs**

School Photos for Preps and Yr 8 @9am

**20<sup>th</sup> February, Fri**

Primary Parent Dance Evening

**24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Yr 7 Camp

**26<sup>th</sup> February, Thurs**

Sec Interschool Swimming Sports

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Yr 8 Camp

**16<sup>th</sup> March, Mon**

Sec Immunisations

**27<sup>th</sup> March, Fri**

Last day of Term 1 - early dismissal 2.30pm

**9<sup>th</sup> June, Tues**

Sec Immunisations

**2015 TERM DATES**

Term 2: 13<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> June

Term 3: 13<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4: 5<sup>th</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> December

**MERBEIN P-10 FACEBOOK PAGE**

Check the Facebook Page for updates about the school and upcoming events.

[www.facebook.com/merbeinp10collegetherentsclub](http://www.facebook.com/merbeinp10collegetherentsclub)

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Reminder that the newsletter is uploaded to the school's website each week - [merbeinp10.vic.edu.au](http://merbeinp10.vic.edu.au).

**STUDENT ABSENCES**

If your child is away from school, please send a note or email the following address:

[Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr Graeme Cupper

**(BYOD)BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE REMINDERS**

It's pleasing to see a positive response to our BYOD Program. I'd like to remind parents that android devices are not recommended as it is very difficult to link them into the Department of Education's system requirements. The only categories approved for use in the 2015 BYOD Program are iPad Minis, iPad 2s (or later) or netbooks/lap tops (Windows 7 minimum). We also support Apple Mac Book Laptops (OSX 10.8 or later). Students with Apple Devices will need to set up their own iTunes Account which will require written parent permission if they under the age of thirteen. Parent Approval Forms are available on our web page or from the school's main office.

**MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 2015**

In accordance with DEECD guidelines, an election of members for the 2015 School Council will be conducted during February and March.

The new 2015 Council will be formed from an election process and will be based on a membership size of fifteen, with a configuration of eight parents, five staff (including the principal) and two co-opted community members.

Due to the scheduled expiry of their terms of office, several members of School Council will be retiring in accordance with DEECD guidelines and the Council Constituting Order.

Consequently, the following vacancies are being declared:

Four Parent category vacancies, two DEECD category vacancies and up to two Co-opted Community positions will be filled by the newly formed council following the conclusion of elections.

I would like to sincerely thank the following retiring Councillors for their valued contribution to the development of Merbein P-10 College over the past year:

<b>Parent Category</b>	
Andrew Nemtsas	Gary Henderson
Geoff Stevens	Kate Donaldson
<b>DEECD Category (STAFF)</b>	
Greg Rhodes	Yvonne Matotek
<b>Co-opt Community</b>	
Graeme Worthington	

The 2014 School Council is to be congratulated for supporting the school as we consolidated the significant progress made since we officially commenced as a P-10 School on a single site. Again the School Council was ably led by Andrew Nemtsas and Graeme Worthington in their roles as President and Vice-President respectively and I sincerely thank them for their leadership.

If either or both categories (Parent or DEECD) have more nominations than positions then a ballot will be conducted. All parents or guardians of students enrolled at the school are eligible to vote for parent members, and staff vote for staff members.

Parents who are DEECD employees may stand for election in the Parent Category, but only up to a maximum of two. This is to ensure that the majority of the college council is created through a combination of parent and community members and not DEECD employees.

Nominations for a position on the Merbein P-10 College Council will open Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February and it will close Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The School Council will continue to play a vital role in achieving the best possible outcomes for our young people and ensure that our school continues to build effective connections with the local community. I therefore encourage parents and staff to consider nominating for a position on the Merbein P-10 College Council and to support us in the important work that lies ahead.

Attached to this newsletter is an information sheet that provides information about the role and membership of School Council. Parent Nomination Forms will be available at the school office for any parent considering nominating. If you would like a Nomination form to be emailed directly to you, please contact the school's Main Office. Nomination Forms can also be downloaded from the school web page.

As mentioned above, if there are more nominations than vacancies, an election will be called and candidates will be invited to prepare a statement of no more than one hundred and fifty words. More details about the recommended content of statements will be provided for candidates if this occurs.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School Photo Days will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Most photos will be taken on the Wednesday. The Prep students and the Year 8 students who attend the Inland Lifesaving Program on Wednesday will have their photos taken on the Thursday. The photo packs will be distributed as soon as they arrive in school.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Immunisations for Yr 7-10
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	-Whole School Assembly for Student Leader Induction -Valentine Day Activities.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Stomp Dance 9-11am each day for the week.
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Secondary Swimming Sports
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	-Yr 8 Inland Life Saving - School Photo Day
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Day for Prep + others who missed on 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Parent Dance Evening
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	- Yr 7 Camp departs - returns on Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Interschool Secondary Swimming Sports
<b><u>IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH</u></b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yr 8 Camp Depart - Returns Friday March 5 <sup>th</sup> .

### **UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop is open on Tuesday from 8.30-10.00am and Thursday from 2.30-4.00pm each week. If these times do not suit, please ring the school to make other arrangements.

### **SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS**

BSB - 063 714

Bank Acc Number – 10060535

Account Name - Merbein P-10 College Official Account.

### **MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

The program is being financially supported by the Merbein & District Community Bank, the Lions Club of Merbein, the Rotary Club of Merbein & the Merbein Development Association as well as Merbein Christian Fellowship Group & the Merbein P-10 College Parents Club through volunteers. **The breakfast program is now being held in the cafeteria** - all students are welcome to come along between 8.00am and 8.45am each morning if they would like a FREE tasty breakfast to kick-start their day's learning

### **CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

### **Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.**

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools' core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage. Eligible families will still be entitled to receive the SchoolKids Bonus. Please read the information below.

### **STUDENT RECORDS**

Reminder that it is important to notify the school of any changes to your child's address, phone number, emergency phone numbers and medical records.

### **MOSAIC TABLE TO GIVE AWAY**

The school has a lovely Mosaic table that needs to go, if you would like it, give the school a ring on 50252501.



### **CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2015**

The Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance for parents/carers to transport their children to and from school in rural and regional Victoria.

#### ***To be eligible a student must:***

- Attend their closest government school.
- Reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the school.

If your child lives more than 4.8km from the school bus route they may be eligible for both car and bus allowance.

***If you have any questions about the Conveyance Allowance or wish to collect a Conveyance Allowance Application Form, please ask at the school's main office.***

#### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

The school prefers to send the weekly newsletter and other important information home via email as this is the most reliable method. Please send your email address to:

[giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au) asking for the newsletter to be emailed to you.

***Please note that those few students in Years 8/9/10 who still require a hardcopy of the newsletter, will need to collect their newsletter from the main office at the finish of their last class at the end of the day each Thursday.***

### **SCHOOLKIDS BONUS**

The 'Schoolkids' Bonus is a Commonwealth Government payment to assist eligible families with education costs. The Bonus is automatically paid by the Commonwealth Department of Human Services in two instalments each year. **Parents do not need to make a claim for this payment.**

To be eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus, the parent/carer must:

- Receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child in primary or secondary education.
- Have a primary or secondary student turning 19 years or younger in the calendar year, who receives certain government payments.
- Satisfy an income test (applicable from 1 January 2015).

From 1 January 2015, eligible families will receive the Schoolkids Bonus in:

- Two instalments of \$211 for each child in primary school - a total of \$422 each year.

Two instalments of \$421 for each child in secondary school - a total of \$842 each year **HEART FOUNDATION LUNCHBOX LIFESAVERS**

It's that time of the year again. The holidays have flown by and the kids are back at school. This means making the school lunches and trying to think of healthier lunchbox items that will actually get eaten. Well luckily, the Heart Foundation have done the work for you!



Their five day planners with recipes included, are there to help you when time and inspiration are running low. Stick the bright and helpful chart to your fridge door and get the kids to help you plan, buy and prepare their lunches.

For more information visit: <http://goo.gl/1LV3CT>

## **PRIMARY NEWS**

### **NAMING ARTICLES**

Please remember it is very important to name all your children's property clearly, especially hats and jumpers, bags and lunch containers.

### **LEVIES - PRIMARY PARENT PAYMENT 2015**

Thank you to the parents who have paid their levies. If you have not paid your levies, please call into the school office and make arrangements to do so as soon as possible.

### **GRADE 4/5/6 LIBRARY DAYS**

Grade 4/5/6 Library days are on Wednesdays each week. Please check that your child returns their library books each week and the books can then be re-borrowed if they need longer.

## GREEN NEWS – Grade 2-3 Beetles & Grade P-1 Bugs

**Home Reading and Daily Book Returns** – What a fantastic start to the year! A very big thank you to almost every parent for encouraging your child to return their diaries, books and book bags every day and supporting them with their home reading. Our goal next week 100%.

**School Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPBS)** – Our focus to start the year has been on student punctuality after the bell and being organised in the mornings returning their diaries, reading books and book bags to the correct place.

**Assemblies** – We will be having a Green Building, Grades P-3 assembly every Thursday afternoon starting approximately 2.45pm at the Grade 2-3 end of the Green Building. At these assemblies weekly awards will be given and two of our Grade 3 students will take a turn at presenting. All parents are welcome to attend.

**Library Borrowing** – Borrowing for the Bugs (Grade P-1) is Monday. The Beetles (Grade 2-3) Library borrowing day is Wednesday. Please check that your child's Library Book is returned at the start of every week to avoid missing books. There is a box near the main door of the Green Building for returning Library books.

**Hats** – No hat, no play.

**Brain Food** – Students have a brain food break at 10.00am each morning. Please include something healthy and easy to eat for their Brain Food in their lunch box every day, for example cut up vegetables, fruit, plain popcorn. No nuts please. The students have developed a great routine already for bringing water bottles to use in the classroom and taking them home to be washed and refilled each day.

**Stomp Dance** – This fantastic School Performance Tour will be visiting Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Permission notes will be sent home soon.

**Prep Rest Days** – Prep students will have every Wednesday off in February.

**Grade P - 2 Get Creative in Art** - This week the students began art. Term 1 we will be focussing on developing the skill of cutting and pasting. This week's activity was cutting out eyes, noses, ears and mouths and pasting them onto a paper plate to create 'Their Face'.



## HEADLICE

Headlice is always a problem in schools. Below is a list of recommendations for parents to follow:

- Parents are asked to keep their child/ren's hair tied back neatly at all times.
- Parents are asked to check their child/ren's hair regularly.
- If Head Lice is detected on your child, prompt notification to the principal is important and will be kept confidential.
- If Head Lice is detected, please seek treatment from your local chemist, doctor or the MRCC Health Department.
- If you or the school detects headlice on your child, it is necessary for your child to remain at home until they have been treated and then checked by you to make sure they are clear of any headlice before they return to school.

These precautions will help the school to nip any further infestations in the bud.

## MERBEIN P-10 COLLEGE OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

There are a few new enrolments in OSHC this year. Students have been getting to know one another with different fun activities. They have also been learning about and participating in Chinese New Year activities. They have learnt it is the Chinese 'Year of the Goat'.

Cheryll Hodge is our school's OSHC coordinator and can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

# SECONDARY NEWS

## **FOR SALE - SECOND HAND**

One polar fleece half zip jumper for sale, size A10 in excellent condition for \$15.00 and a Year 8 Maths book for \$30.00. If you are interested contact

Tania May on phone 50231985/0438387724.

## **REMINDER - HEALTH BOOKS**

At the end of 2014, the Health and Physical Education Department at the College sent out letters to all families outlining that all students would be using a text/workbook for the health component of this subject. Each student was required to purchase a copy of this book before the end of last year, ready for use in 2015. It is an essential item that contains work required for the entire year and has been constructed to align with the new National Curriculum in Health and Physical Education.

The cost of this book is \$28.95 and is payable to the College as soon as possible, to assist with your child's progress.

Thank you to the majority of parents/guardians who have already purchased this book.

Again this is a necessary requirement for this subject. If you have any queries regarding this book, please contact me at the College.

Hayley Willison.

## **IMMUNISATIONS**

The first round of school immunisations will take place next Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February. All Year 7 students have been given three cards and Year 8-10 students have received a single card each. The School Immunisation Program is an important health initiative in all Australian schools. The immunisations help protect students now and in future years from potentially devastating diseases and viruses. All students should return their completed cards to the general office by tomorrow or Monday at the latest.

On the day that students are receiving their immunisation they should eat a good breakfast and bring a snack. This will assist in them feeling well afterwards.

Your child will receive a vaccine receipt with the vaccine given on it, possible side effects, and a contact number for the Immunisation Nurses.

For further information contact the Mildura Rural City Council via phone 5018 8211 or email [immunisation@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@mildura.vic.gov.au).

You can also find information on these websites  
Better Health Channel-  
[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

## **SECONDARY SWIM SPORTS**

The annual Secondary Swim Sports will be held during the day on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. On this day all students in the secondary section will be encouraged to enter the water and swim, walk or float to the other end of the pool at least once on the day to gain all important points for their Sports House. The day will start with normal classes up until recess when the Swimming Event will begin. This is an important school day and attendance is compulsory. Further information will be made available in future newsletters.

## **LOCKS ON LOCKERS**

Please provide locks for your child's locker. All students are responsible for the security of their own equipment at school. We have supplied lockable lockers for every student and the school has cameras set up at most locker locations. If a student has a BYOD computer or Ipad they MUST use a lock on their lockers. It is strongly advised that all other students use a lock on their lockers also, to ensure security.

## **SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS**

Our first focus for 'School Wide Positive Behaviours' (SWPBIS) in 2015 is centred around students being punctual with their correct equipment and completing good quality work. Over the next one and a half weeks, all students will be expected to attend all classes with the correct equipment and will be marked on a session by session check sheet. Students that consistently do the right thing will be acknowledged and rewarded. The students that are not punctual or do not bring equipment will have a graduated 'Set of Actions' designed to teach them about the expectation.

Students will also have spot checks on their work books which will be recorded. Once again, students who are being respectful of their equipment will be rewarded, those who aren't will have graduated consequences to help them learn about the importance of respecting equipment.

## **SUN SMART**

Our Sun Smart Policy was explained to all students at a whole school assembly last week. The policy was also attached to last week's newsletter. The key messages for students are that they need to take measures to protect themselves against over exposure to the rays of the sun. At this time of the year the UV levels are regularly above safe levels between 9.30am and 5.20pm each day whether the temperature is hot or cool. Our students receive information about the temperature and UV levels in the daily bulletin every day.

Please ensure you supply your child with appropriate sunscreen that they can safely lock away in their lockers and use when required. Bucket hats are available to purchase from the uniform shop if students wish to purchase one.

### **VALENTINES DAY STALL**

The Secondary component of the Student Representative Council (SRC) executive have arranged the annual Valentine's Day Stall. Secondary students can purchase relatively inexpensive chocolates, flowers, balloons or Teddy Bears to acknowledge friendships with students in the school. This is also a SRC fundraiser to fund some of their school based projects.

### **UNIFORM**

It is fantastic to see almost all students in correct uniform. It is expected that all students wear the full school uniform at all times. If for some reason a student is unable to wear the uniform for a short period of time, a signed note with an explanation should be provided to the school by the parents/guardians. It is also important to note that black shorts/long casual pants are acceptable for uniform, BUT leggings ARE NOT uniform and are not to be worn at school unless students are changing into them for sports/PE classes and changing back into uniform after these classes.

### **FORM TEACHERS AND LEARNING CENTRE**

#### **LEADERS**

Below is a list of Form Teachers and Learning Centre Leaders. The Form Teachers and Learning Centre Leaders are both important points of contact at school. If you wish to contact directly please forward your email address to the school, [merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au), addressed to the teacher concerned and the information it will forwarded on to them.

8A	Mr Johnson	8B	Ms Williams
8C	Mr Willison		
9A	Mr Petrie	9B	Mr Ebbels
9C	Mr Blackie	9D	Mrs Byrne /Mrs Brown
9E	Mrs McPhee / Mrs Aarons		
10A	Mr Hankinson	10B	Mrs Dawson
10C	Mr Voege	10D	Mr Watson
Liz Rankin, Tim Dreyer and Chris Bettison are the Learning Centre Leaders for the Year 8-10 students			
Mr Morgan is the Learning Centre Leader for the 4-7 area			
7A	Mr Arney	7B	Ms Donnelly
7C	Ms Hibberd	7D	Mr Hill

### **YEAR 10 INFORMATION**

**Year 10 Polo Shirts and Jumpers** - All students should have received a purple form to order their Year 10 shirts and rugby jumpers. The Polos are available in black or white and need to be paid for by the 20th February. The jumpers need to be paid for by the 6th March. The size written on the form is the size that students have tried and decided is their best fit. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time to check the sizing of any garments.

Polos are \$35 Rugby and Jumpers \$80.

**Year 10 Snow Trip** - On Thursday students were able to collect an expression of interest form to attend the Snow Trip. The Snow Trip will be held in early August and will cost approximately \$550. The trip is limited to forty students who will be selected on a 'first come, first served' basis. To be eligible to attend students must have paid all prior camps in full and maintain a high standard of behaviour throughout the year. In the event there are more than forty students interested in attending these extra numbers will be placed on a waiting list to fill any spaces that may become available during the year.

**Year 10 Graduation** - The Graduation will be held in the first week of December (exact date yet to be confirmed). There is a strict attendance policy that students must adhere to if they wish to attend. This policy was given to all students on their first day and is available on the school website.

If you have any questions regarding Year 10 events and activities, please feel free to contact Mr Dreyer by phoning the school or by email [dreyer.timothy.b@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:dreyer.timothy.b@edumail.vic.gov.au)

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## **GIRL GUIDES**

Have vacancies for girls aged 5–18 years. Activities are designed to meet personal challenges, to learn team building and leadership skills and to make new friends.

For more information of units in your area Contact District Manager - Vivien Hunt 5023 6135.

## **LAWN BOWLS AND TENNIS**

Mallee Sports Assembly Lawn Bowls and Tennis will be re-commencing next week.

Access for Lawn Bowls on 10th February at 6pm. Please note the change of date. The program will still go for 8 weeks. There is no charge for the Lawn Bowls program.

If you would like to register for either of these two sports, please contact Tanya Wild 0417 925 539.

## **TONY ATTWOOD AUTISM AND ASPERGER'S PRESENTATION**

13<sup>th</sup> February – Managing Feelings and Cognitive Abilities. 14<sup>th</sup> February – Adolescents and Behaviour Management.

Held at the Mildura Arts Centre both days from 9am-4pm. Cost \$35 per day including lunch.

Tickets available from

[www.milduraartscentre.com.au](http://www.milduraartscentre.com.au). For more information call LMML on 50238633.

## **MERBEIN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK 97.9 SUN FM NORTHERN MALLEE SPORTS STAR AWARDS**

An invitation is extended to anyone interested in attending on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm. To be held at the Mildura Club Da Vinci, Deakin Avenue, Mildura. Formal Dress. Drinks at bar prices. Tickets include a 2 course meal at \$55 per person, children under 12 \$27.50. Tickets can be purchased from Mallee Sports Assembly. Please reply by tomorrow, 30<sup>th</sup> January if possible. Contact MSA on 50213464 for more information.

## **MERBEIN FOOTBALL AND NETBALL REGISTRATION DAY**

Held at the Club Social Rooms, Kenny Park on 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February from 5.00 – 6pm.

The Auskick program is to be completed online via website <http://aflauskick.com.au/register/>.

For further information please contact:

Football

Graeme Dunne (President) 0407 325 751

Geoff Stevens (President) 0407 502 465

Auskick: Brad Martin 0418 136 432

Netball: Sue Mulder 0403 316 782

## **MASP 2015 KOKODA YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM EVENING**

“Walk in the Footsteps of Heroes”

Training commences on Monday March 2,

2015 and takes place Monday and

Wednesday evenings starts at 6.00pm at

Jaycee Park. 2015 Kokoda Trek Dates are

approximately September 21 –October 2. These dates will be confirmed later.

If you want to know more, contact Ken Innes 5021650/0400675933, [kinnes@masp.org.au](mailto:kinnes@masp.org.au)

**Merbein P-10 College**  
**2015 School Council Election Process Timetable**



EVENT	DATE
<b>a) Notice of election and call for nominations</b>	Friday 6 February 2015
<b>b) Closing date for nominations</b>	Monday 16 February 2015
<b>c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</b>	Wednesday 18 February 2015
<b>d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</b>	On or before Mon 23 February 2015
<b>e) <u>Close of ballot</u> - 4.00 pm</b>	Tuesday 3 March 2015
<b>f) Vote count and Declaration of ballot - 4.30 pm</b>	Tuesday 3 March 2015
<b>g) Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)</b>	Wednesday 4 March 2015
<b>h) First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</b>	Wednesday 11 March

**Graeme Cupper – Principal**



## School Council Elections (2015)

### ***What is a school council and what does it do?***

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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 school council?***

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***What do you need to do to stand for election?***

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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 where their child is enrolled

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.

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.

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.