From the Principal

School Council Election 2017 - Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide 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?
For most school councils, 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 Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET 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 - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires 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 of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

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.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

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.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the
**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 Acting Principal, Mandy Elliot for further information.*

**Open classroom and bush dance**-

Once again this year WPS will be holding open classrooms combined with our Bush dance. We hope that many of our families will join us on this night to meet the teachers, find out about school programs and enjoy a social evening. The date for this event will be Friday 24th February. Parents and Friends will be running a barbeque on the night. We hope to see you all there.

**Grandparents and Special Friends Day**-

Grandparents and Special Friends Day is on Friday 24th Feb from 9-11am. This year each unit has a genre to work within so that grandparents and special friends can access a variety of interesting activities on the day. We ask that all families bring a plate of morning tea to share and will finish the activities with a shared morning tea on the back verandah at 10:45am. Invitations should be sent home soon and we hope to welcome many grandparents and special friends to this event.

**Grade one and two assemblies**-

This week I was lucky enough to attend the grade 1 and 2 assembly. During this time the children celebrated successes with learning. The teachers were also able to provide feedback to the children around what expectations they have for the standard of work produced. Well done to this team for a really positive assembly.

**National Apology Day**

Monday, 13 February marks the ninth anniversary of the National Apology to the Indigenous peoples of Australia given by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in the Australian Parliament in 2008.

**On Wednesday, 15 February** at assembly our KESO (Koori Education Support Officer) Sally will be attending and presenting our school with a kangaroo pore to mark this occasion.

**Thankyou**

This week our school received a donation from the Wangaratta Pharmacy Murphy Street, towards purchasing resources at school. We kindly thank them for this assistance and the resources will go towards improving student learning outcomes.

Regards
Mandy Elliot

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Celebration of great work in grade 1 and 2

Revision in Italian- what words and phrase can we remember

Grade 3 and 4 students preparing for the Bushdance

Feedback on SunSmart posters- these posters showcased what we need to be SunSmart
**Student of the Week**

Alex 5/6C—for his positive attitude towards learning and persistence in all of his work!
Dermot 1/2A—for settling in well to the new school year and always being ready to learn!
Hudson 1/2K—for being ready to listen and to learn. Huddy is taking charge of his learning and doing his best.
Brodie 5/6L—for having the confidence to step up and show great leadership from day 1 of the year.
Kaylee 3/4L—for being a kind and friendly classmate.
Xander 3/4D—for his friendly attitude, great sense of humour and always doing his best.
Thomas 3/4D—Musician of the Week—for awesome bush dancing.

**2017 Student Leaders**

We are very excited to introduce you to the 2017 School Leaders.
- **School Captains**: Jasmine and Brodie F
- **Vice School Captains**: Charlotte and Joe
- **House Captains**
  - Murphy: Hannah and Zarah D
  - Faithfull: Annabelle and Machlan
  - Reid: Zarah P and Tennyson
  - Chisholm: Ragni and Brodie P
- **Student Voice Leaders**: Isabel and Eva

**Music News**

Welcome back to another exciting year. We had some great successes in the music room last year and plan on building on that this year.

I have spoken to all the children about the optional extra classes that we offer on a Thursday free of charge. If they were interested in learning guitar, joining the choir or band, they have brought home a form to be signed.

**Thursdays:**
- **Junior Guitar** 12.30pm-1.00pm
- **Choir** 1.30pm-2.00pm
- **Band** 2.15pm-2.45pm
- **Senior Guitar** 2.45pm-3.15pm

The choir are well respected and much sought after in the community and already have two performances booked for:

- **May 12**—Closing of the Heritage Festival at the Town Library  5.00pm-8.00pm
- **May 24**—Performance for Senior Citizens at Tara Court 1.45pm
We all went down to Apex Park to watch the bike riders start their long and enduring race.

First we go onto the track with some chalk and we could draw pictures or write inspirational messages to the riders then we were told we had to finish up.

Then it was time some of us were given cow bells and we lined up next to the start. Everyone was ringing their cowbells when the race started! All the riders rode past us, there were so many of them it was so exciting. At the end we were lucky enough to get a show bag. By Joe
We are going to shave our hair to beat blood cancer!

Our goal: $2000

Why we are taking part
As a Wangaratta Primary School community we band together in times of need. Well that time is now as one of our students has recently been diagnosed with leukaemia. Lily, and her family, have a long road ahead of them and this is just a small way we can show them our support.

What I've done so far
There are multiple ways you can help and support Lily and her family. You can:

- Donate to the World’s Greatest Shave
- Join our team called ‘Lose your locks for Lily’
- Participate in various upcoming fundraisers through the school (more details to come in the near future)

To sponsor us or join our team go to [www.worldsgreatestshave.com](http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com)

Keep your eyes out for more information in coming weeks, including a date to see us ‘Lose our locks for Lily!’

About the event
WHAT:
Each March, more than 20,000 extraordinary Aussies help beat blood cancer by getting sponsored to shave or colour their hair during the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave.

WHY:
Blood cancer is the third most common cause of cancer death in Australia, claiming more lives than breast cancer or melanoma. And every day another 35 people will be diagnosed.

Those taking part in World’s Greatest Shave make a difference by giving families facing blood cancer the emotional and practical support they need. They also help fund vital research that will mean more people survive blood cancer, while improving their quality of life.

WHO:
Aussies of all ages will shave, colour or wax the hair on their head, chest or face, supported all the way by proud family, friends, colleagues and classmates.

HOW:
Learn more, donate or sign up quickly and securely at worldsgreatestshave.com or 1800 500 088 today.

How the money helps
Leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma are types of blood cancer. Blood cancer and related disorders can develop in anyone, of any age, at any time.

More than 60,000 Australians are living with blood cancer or related disorders, and the equivalent of one person every 41 minutes is diagnosed.

Although research is improving survival, sadly an Australian loses their life to blood cancer every two hours. They claim more lives than breast cancer and melanoma.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national charity dedicated to helping more Australians with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related disorders survive their blood cancer and live a better quality of life.
General Information

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
To be eligible a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
A) be a holder of a current Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder OR
B) Be a temporary foster parent, and
C) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.
Primary school student $125 per year
Secondary school student $225 per year

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards, camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

Application forms are available from the school office and need to be completed and returned to school office no later than Thursday, 23 February.

Learn to Save with Piggy!
Every time you make a deposit into your savings account on a School Banking Wednesday you receive a stamp. Collect all 6 stamps for the school term and you will be entitled to a reward! Your stamp card will be issued when you make your first deposit. Call Wangaratta branch on 5721 9499 to find out how to join school banking.

Volunteers Needed
We need volunteers to form a roster for our First Aid room. If you are able to assist changing and washing bed linen please see Yvonne or Katrina in the office.

Piano Lessons
Expressions of interest for private piano lessons with Andrea Wearne.
Phone 0448196419

Teeball—It’s back and free—for primary school aged boys and girls.
When: Wednesdays for 8 weeks
Where: Wangaratta Baseball/Softball Grounds, Murdoch Road
Time: 6pm-7pm—equipment supplied and sessions run by experienced Wangaratta Rangers Baseball players BYO hat and drink bottle
See Wangaratta Rangers Baseball facebook page for details.

Twilight Touch— from February 13
Apex Park @ 6.15pm
No experience or knowledge necessary and it’s free!
For further information email: sportnotheast@thecentre.vic.edu.au or call 5721 0200

Northern Rivers Academy of Music
Enrol online now at nram.org.au
All styles, all instruments, all levels, national and international artists in residence.
For further information phone 5737 4060 or email info@nram.org.au