

05.02.2024

We acknowledge all First Peoples of the beautiful lands on which we live and celebrate their enduring knowledge and connections to Country. We honour the wisdom of and pay respect to Elders past and present.



The Week Ahead	
Monday	Newsletter
Tuesday	Junior School Council 3:00pm
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Club 8:15-8:45am
Dates for the calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 5th February School Council nominations open Monday 12th February Assembly 3:00pm. School Council Nominations close 4:00pm Monday 20th February Learning Showcase 2:30pm. Assembly 3:00pm. Thursday 7th March ChillOut opening. Grove of Gratitude planting Monday 11th March Labour Day (public holiday). Thursday 28th March Term 1 concludes, 2:30pm finish.

Principal Report

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend and survived the heat yesterday!

Week one saw us establishing routines, learning spaces and catching up on all the news from the Christmas break. It has been wonderful hearing all about the events and fun had over the break.

We are trialling throughout term one, the newsletter and assembly being published and

held on a Monday. We feel it will be a great way to start the week. We welcomed Mr Garry Galloway as our Italian teacher. The first session provided students with an opportunity to share a little about their families and where they live. Garry is incredibly excited to be our Italian teacher. I would also like to introduce our Science/Tutor for 2024, Miss Ashlee (Ash) Blackburn. Ash will be commencing tomorrow. She also is incredibly excited to be joining our team. Ash will work Tuesday and Thursday providing Science and working closely with our classroom teachers through the Tutor Learning initiative.

Chat soon,
Matt

School Council nominations

Nominations are now open, we are currently seeking to fill 5 parent category positions. Please find a fact sheet outlining what School Council is and nomination forms can be filled out at the school office. Nominations close Monday 12th February at 4:00pm.

Reminders

Supervision-

The school grounds are supervised by a staff member from 8:35am (Mon-Thurs) and 8:15am (Fri-Breakfast Club). At the end of each day students and staff gather out the front of the school. Students check-in with a member of staff before departing. Please feel free to gather/sit out the front to meet the students and staff.

Communication—

Class DoJo is where you can find communication from classrooms, newsletters, key dates and message staff as required. If your child is absent from school, please ensure you make contact via phone or Class DoJo.

Lunch orders -

Hepburn General Store lunch orders are available on Fridays.

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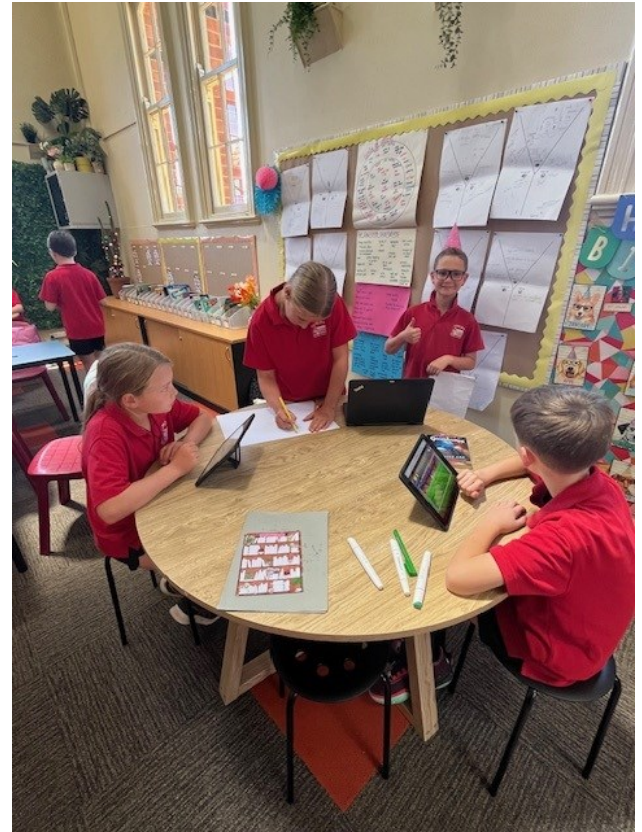
Students of the fortnight

Mrs Smart—Gurniwaz, for having an absolutely amazing start to grade one! I've loved seeing how you've settled back in with a cheeky smile and a tonne of enthusiasm, keep it up for the rest of the term!

Mr Jackson—Hugo, for his brilliant attitude to returning to learning in term 1. He has not only been ready to learn, but also helping others to learn. Great work Hugo!

Mrs Graham—Damon, for his amazing transition into grade six. He has been a wonderful role model, class member and house captain. We are so proud of you!

Mr Beechey—Lucian, for demonstrating our school value of Courage. Lucian your ability to take risks in your learning by asking questions and a willingness to learn with others is outstanding to see. Congratulations!



Curiosity Courage Kindness

We are a vibrant community of unique individuals where all are inspired to learn, laugh and flourish together

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Fact sheet 1: school council elections – 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 broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have **nominee members**.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

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 and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty

act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds

act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

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use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available

exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school

use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions

comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law

demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council 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 consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council
encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

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SUNSET IN THE SPRINGS

**FRIDAY
9TH & 16TH
FEBRUARY**

9TH FEBRUARY

**FREYA JOSEPHINE HOLLICK
SUNFRUITS
SKY SCRAPER STAN**

16TH FEBRUARY

**LEAH SENIOR
CODA CHROMA
PYREX**