SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS NOTICE 2015

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 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 co-opted 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. School Council nomination forms are available from the school office. Once completed, please return the nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the week following close of nominations. Remember … If you are interested and need more information, please don’t hesitate to contact the Principal.

Schedule 4 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Glen Katherine Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school website or office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm Thursday 26th February, 2015. A ballot (if required,) will close at 4.00 pm on Friday, 6th March, 2015. Following the close of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted in the foyer. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>No. of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Category</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017.</td>
<td>3 positions 3 x 2 year terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD Employee Member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017.</td>
<td>4 positions 2 x 2 year terms 2 x 1 year terms</td>
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</tbody>
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