

Morwell Park P S

School Community Newsletter

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16th February, 2023



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Morwell Park Primary
School Official

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, 17th February	Issue 1 Book Club to be submitted ONLINE through LOOP.
Mon-Thur, 20th-23rd February	Gr 3 & 5 Swimming in Schools Program.
Mon-Thur, 27th Feb-2nd March	Gr 1 & 2 Swimming in Schools Program.
Friday, 3rd March	Whole School excursion to Mirboo Nth Pool.
Mon-Thur, 6th-9th March	Gr 4 & 6 Swimming in Schools Program.
Monday, 13th March	Labour Day Holiday. NO SCHOOL.
Wednesday, 15th-27th March	NAPLAN, Gr 3 & 5.
Friday, 31st March	Grade 3 & 4 Netta.
Monday, 3rd April	Curriculum Day. NO children at school.

Principals Report

School Captains and Junior School Councillors

Congratulations to the following student leaders who have been elected by their peers to represent our school. The formal badge presentation will take place once the badges are printed.

School Captains Jonathon J C and Annabell M

Vice Captains Ryley S P and Daniel G

House Captains

Red: Reece P and Seth M *Blue:* Hassan S and Tyler H
Green: Sienna R and Taylah B *Yellow:* Kaiden R P and Issac K

JSC Members

Grade 4: Matthew J and Serenity D G
Grade 5: Mikyla M, Tahlia W, Damen H J, Samuel W
Grade 6: Tanisha D and Halima A

Tech Captains Alex W and Eli J

Environmental Captains Lilly O and Alanna P

School Council

The Morwell Park Primary School Council is made up of parent, staff and community representatives and broadly speaking serves as the governing body of the school. Our school council meets 8 times during the school year (twice a term), in most cases 5 – 6pm on a Thursday.

This year we have five vacancies in the parent representative category, should we have more than five nominations an election will be held. Our current school councillors not up for re-election are Melinda Moore, Natalie Freeman and Teagan Lawrence.

Retiring members are Belinda Soppe, Brooke McGenniskin, Rick Merlo, Damian Gilbert and Louise Walker.

Attached to the newsletter is information regarding school council. If you would like to discuss school council please contact Mr Joustra or any school council member. Nominations are open from Friday February 17 and will close next Friday February 24 at 4.00pm. Nomination forms are available from the office or by contacting via Seesaw. Attached to the newsletter is a call for nominations and an information sheet.

Meet the Teacher

Thankyou to all those parents / caregivers who attended the Meet the Teacher opportunity yesterday. A reminder that we hold two parent teacher interview opportunities every year however parents / caregivers can arrange for a discussion with their child's teacher at any time during the term via appointment.

Mirboo Nth Pool

On Friday March 3 our whole school will be off to the Mirboo North Pool. Historically the pool day is a highlight for students. For those who haven't visited the Mirboo North Pool before there are 3 pools graduating from a water play pool, to an infant pool to the 25m pool providing water safe play areas for all year levels

Personal Goods At School

From time to time children bring personal goods to school, this may range from simple sporting equipment to various electronic games. The department of education does not have any insurance policy to cover the loss or damage of any personal goods and does not accept any responsibility for such goods. Please think carefully before allowing your child to bring any personal items to school.

A reminder that mobile phones must be handed in at the start of the school day.

Chris Joustra, Principal.



WEEKLY AWARDS

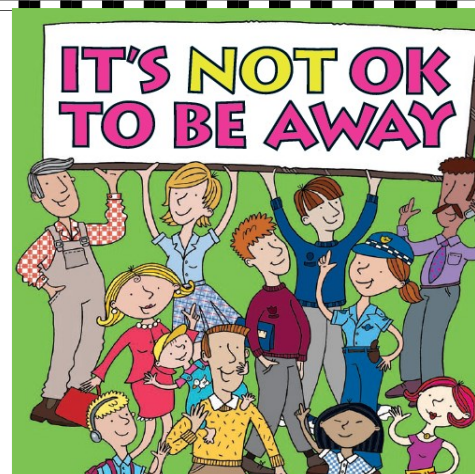


Prep	Cevine A, Daphne C, Isla D
Gr 1	Maddison McD, Brandon W
Gr 2	Alanah F, Zavier G, Maelah K
Gr 3	Skye K, Regan A, Kiara W S
Gr 4	Ellarnah W, Jasper J, Aaron J
Gr 5	Theo H, Ryan P, Tahlia W
Gr 6	Halima A, AE, Ashton H T

ARTISTS AWARDS	Gr 1 Stick Insects, Gr 2 Koalas
PE AWARDS	Gr 1
MUSIC AWARDS	2A & 4B

SCHOOL VALUE AWARDS.

KIND:	Daphne C, Prep
GRITTY:	Kaleb B, Gr 4
FOCUSED:	Bianca P, Gr 1



ATTENDANCE AWARD
Grade 4
94.7%

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to apply for CSEF.

If you applied at Morwell Park in 2022, and there has been NO change in your family circumstances your application will be copied to 2023.

You need to complete a new application form if any of the following changes have occurred;

- **New student enrolments;** your child has started (including new Prep children) or changed schools in 2023,
- **Newly eligible:** did not apply in 2022,
- **Changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number.

A CSEF application also entitles Prep students to a **WINTER WARMER UNIFORM PACK**, issued in Term 2, consisting of a windcheater, trackpants and shoes.

Order forms will be provided when available.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE - Contact the office for more info or an application form

LOGO PRINTING on shirts and jumpers.

Printing of the logo on school polo shirts and jumpers will be done on a Thursday afternoon and will be ready for collection on the Friday. Thank you.

Morwell Park 'Sun Smart' hats.

Compulsory in Term 1 & 4.

Hats are only available from **LOWES** at Mid Valley.



HEADLICE

Please check regularly for Head Lice and treat your family if necessary.

Going to school with head lice



Should you send your child with head lice to school?

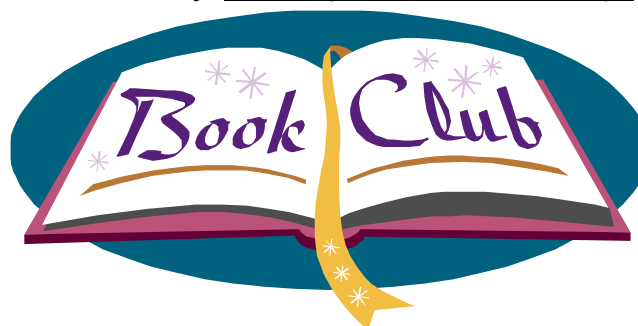
If your child has head lice, it is strongly recommended that you send him/her to school **AFTER YOU HAVE STARTED** an effective treatment of head lice.

EFFECTIVE TREATMENT means:

- NO LIVE head lice
- eggs may still be present (they remain after the first combing with hair conditioner or application of an effective chemical treatment; no product kills eggs and no comb removes all eggs.)

Eggs pose no risk to others **AS LONG AS TREATMENT CONTINUES AND IS EFFECTIVE.**

Issue 1 of Book Club must be submitted by **Friday 17th February.**



Visit www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the app to order online.

Each order helps the school earn bonus points that we can order free books for the school library and Lexile program. Thanks, Mrs Maruzza.



DISTRICT SWIMMING

On Wednesday the 15th of February, 10 students from our school went to the district swimming event. They showed great sportsmanship, tried their hardest, and supported each other throughout the day. Thanks to their effort and determination, our school finished in second place overall! We are so proud of all of the students who attended and showed true grit and determination.

We also want to give a special congratulations to Seth M, who placed first in both the freestyle and butterfly events. Well done Seth, we are all incredibly proud of your achievement!

Thank you to all the helpers who came along to support our team and accompany the students. It was a fantastic day for everyone involved, and we look forward to more sporting events in the future.

Appendix A

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 according to Ministerial Order 1280. 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
- **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:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b. 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 category 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.

FORM 2: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

(Formerly **Schedule 4**: Notice of Election and Call for Nomination)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

Morwell Park Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on:

17/02/2023 (insert day, month and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on:

24/02/2023 (insert day, month and year).

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2022 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 20 24	5
School employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2022 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2024	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Chris Joustra
Principal