



14th February, 2018

ISSUE NO. 1

CALENDAR

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February

Tue 20th District Swimming Sports

March

Fri 2nd District Sports (tennis, cricket)

Mon 13th Labour Day Public Holiday

From the Principal



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Welcome back to the 2018 school year. It has been great welcoming all our students back with bright happy faces and enthusiasm at being back at school. It was lovely to see the greater majority of students in school uniform.

I would especially like to welcome new families to the school. Feel free to contact us at the school if you require any information or any have concerns.

This year we welcome 2 new staff members:

Maddison Kerr and she will be teaching PE/Health and Science

Anthony Tatchell and he will be teaching PE, Science and Biology.

Please make them feel welcome not only at the school but also in the community.

We also welcome back Amie Reusch after being on leave for 12 months.

The Well-Being team will be focused on supporting students and the members of the team are as follows:

Assistant Principal:	Scott Moorhouse
Senior School Leader:	Marina Bruzzese
Junior School Leader and Well-being Leader:	Kay Chandler
Chaplain:	Norm DeSilva
Year 7 Co-ordinator:	Alison Edgar
Year 8 Co-ordinator:	Sarah Coolidge
Year 9 Co-ordinator:	Rebecca Woodall
Year 10 Co-ordinator:	Rose Hill
Year 11 Co-ordinator:	Petra Hopkins
Year 12 Co-ordinator:	Marina Bruzzese

Feel free to access these staff when required.

Teaching and Learning queries may be directed either to myself, Nic Ryan (Teaching and Learning leader) or Petra Hopkins (Learning Specialist).

This year our school will be focussing on the following areas:

- Developing a Literacy plan with a focus on improving writing
- Student Management procedures that are consistently utilised by staff and students
- Wellbeing of all members of the school community
- Having high academic and personal expectations of our students

I am looking forward to sharing our learning journey with the school community during 2018.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018

School council elections for the MNSC council will open on Monday 19th February. Information about the role of school council and the nomination process is included in the newsletter. Parents are the key people on school council and assist in setting the strategic direction of the school and they have a role in governance. Please consider applying to be a council member. Council meets twice per term.

Karen Lanyon
College Principal

School Council Elections

Information regarding the forthcoming school council elections is included in this newsletter. Please give some thought to nominating. Information about the role of school councillors and in fact council is included to assist you. Of course if you have any questions feel free to contact me at the school.

Nominations for the 2018 Mirboo North Secondary College school council elections will open on Monday 19th February and close on Monday 26th February.

Attached to the newsletter are self-nomination forms that need to be completed and dropped off at the office by the closing date.

An election will be held only if the number of nominations is greater than the number of vacancies.

General information about School Councils

School councils can have up to three categories of membership:

1. Parent members – elected by the school parent community. This is a mandated category.
2. DET employee members – elected by the DET employees; the principal is included as a DET employee member and has full voting rights. This is a mandated category.
3. Community members – this is optional category. These positions are *co-opted* by the school council rather than elected. These members have the same voting rights as elected members. Schools can choose to have this optional category.
4. Student members—2 students will be elected during Term 1. This is a mandated category.

Co-opting community members allows school councils to bring additional skills and perspectives to the council that may not be available from the parent or teaching community.

More than one third of school council members **must** be parents.

Office Bearers

Mandated Position:

President – Parent member (non DET employee), or community member who is chairperson of school council meetings.

Executive officer – the principal.

Other positions may include:

Vice president - Parent member (non DET employee) or community member, who chairs school council meetings in the absence of the president.

Terms of Office

School councillors are elected for **two year** terms.

The term of office and rights and responsibilities of community (ie: co-opted) members are the same as those of elected school councillors.

Half the school council members retire each year but can stand for re-election.

The position of minute secretary can be filled by a non-council member. If this is the case, that person is required to be a silent observer and has no voting rights. Alternatively, the position of minute secretary can be filled by a school council member.

School Council Elections 2018

Elections for State School Councils are held at this time each year. School Council are made up of three groups of people:

- Parent Representatives
- Department of Education and Training (DET) representatives
- Community Members (this includes our college captains)
- 2 Student members

This year there are **4 Parent Representatives** vacancies and **3 Department of Education** representative vacancies.

Nominations for these vacancies are now open. Nominations are to be submitted at the school office by 4pm on **MONDAY 26th February**. For your information, I have included information on School Council and a nomination form.

Please consider nominating for Council. We need your support and welcome your input.

Karen Lanyon
College Principal

School Council Elections 2018

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 Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's 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. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for 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 February or March 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 will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the Parent category or DET employee category. A nomination form is attached to this newsletter. Once the nomination form is completed, return it 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 within the 7 days 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.

The first meeting for the year of the new school council will be held on Monday March 19th 2018 starting at 7.30pm in the Mirboo North SC Staffroom.

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

MIRBOO NORTH SECONDARY COLLEGE

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

...19.../...02.../...18... (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on

...26.../...02.../...18... (insert date 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 20..... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20.....	4
DEECD employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20..... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20.....	3

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.

Karen Lanyon

Principal

School Council Elections

Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the

..... school council.

Name:

.....

Residential address:

.....

Home telephone:

Business telephone:

.....

Email:

.....

I am the parent/guardian of, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate

Date / /

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on

You may choose not to give some or all of the information requested; however, your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.