School Council Elections

Nominations forms are now available for the 2017—18 School Council. School Council is made up of seven parent members, four Education Department members and two community members. There are five parent, two community and two department vacancies at this election. Amy Kopsidas, Karen Edwards, Jane Hando, Philippa Schapper, Leanne Butler and Karen King-Jones are eligible for re-election and Melissa Bell has retired. Cindy Sheahan, Alana Zammit, Courtney Brown and Lisa-Ann Moor remain on Council until 2018.

Further information for parents detailing the role and importance of School Council is attached to this Newsletter.

Parents Club

We had a terrific turn out for the morning tea to discuss the viability of the school’s Parents Club. It was decided to meet on the first Monday of each month at 9.15am with the endorsement of the constitution and election of office bearers being the first items of business at the next meeting on March 6th. All parents are welcome to attend the meetings and contribute towards the activities that are planned during the school year.

Meet the families School Barbecue Thursday, February 16th from 5.00 pm.

The school community welcome barbecue will take place at the school on Thursday, February 16th from 5.00pm after being postponed last week.

Meat will be supplied and families are asked to bring their own drinks. We are really looking forward to seeing lots of people at the school for this event.

Students of the Week:

Christian, Kasey, Billy and Duane

Good Sports—Jayda and Kloe

Sensei Says —Sasha and Maddison

Dates to Remember:

February: No Preps on Wednesdays
February 16th - Family BBQ from 5.00pm.
February 17th - Football / Netball Clinic for grade 3 - 6 children (10 - 11.00am)
February 21st - School Council Meeting
March 6th - Parents Club Meeting
March 13th - Labour Day Public Holiday
March 31st - Pupil Free Day
April 18th (Tues) - Term 2 begins
Swimming Program

The swimming program is in full swing with the children completing their third session today. Big thanks to the parents from our school who have been supervising the swimming groups. Stacey Anderson, Kath Caldow, Paul Congues and Lisa-Ann Moor have been a great help. Two students from St Marys Secondary College, Keely Bond and Lily Smith, have also been assisting with the program and supervising groups of children.

The swimming program is a compulsory component of the curriculum and all children are expected to participate. Please ensure your children pack their swimming equipment every day for the swimming program.

Free to a Good Home—Last Chance!:

Three sets of solid wooden doors with glass inserts. (locks are to be removed)

Large (1600 X 900mm) office desk with drawers.

Contact Chris for more information.
Nathalia and District Primary School Football
Under 10’s and under 12’s

For the last few years Nathalia have entered teams into the junior footy competition in Shepparton. The competition consists of two age groups – under 10’s and under 12’s. Both boys and girls are encouraged to play and the girls now have a pathway through the Northern Angels as they progress. With fantastic support from our local families we are again looking forward to entering teams in 2017.

The competition is open to boys and girls who are in grade 3 or 4 and grade 5 or 6 in 2017. To qualify for under 10’s – you need to be 9 or younger as at the 31st Dec 2016. *you must be at least 8 by 31st Dec 2016 to play. If you are in grade 3 and younger than 8, please note this on the form below. To qualify for under 12’s – you need to be 11 or younger as at 31st Dec 2016. *If you are over 11 please note on the form below.

The Nathalia team consisted of children from the Nathalia Primary School, St. Francis Primary School and other local schools. Each Saturday we play against teams from Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura and Numurkah with games held at local footy grounds.

We play all their home games at the Rec Reserve in Nathalia. The games are either played at 9am or 10am with 4 x 12 min quarters (u10) and 4 x 15 min (u12). Jumpers and helmets are allocated at the start of the season. You are welcome to provide your own approved helmet. The kids have fun while learning the craft of playing footy with the help of the coach who remains on the ground throughout the game.

Training is held every Thursday night at the Recreation Reserve in conjunction with Nathalia Football Club and Auskick program. *Please Note – if your child is participating in the school football they do not need to sign up for the Auskick. We attempt to have games coincide with the Nathalia Footy Club and be at home when they are, however, this is not always possible.

The season starts in term 2 and runs for approximately 12 weeks with two weeks off over the school holidays and finishes in August. The cost is yet to be determined, however, 2016 was $70 per child. This includes your registration and insurance. We are happy to work with you in regards to payment and a payment plan can be arranged.

Complete the form below with your details to secure your spot. Return to your school office for collection. If you have any questions please call Nicole Reynolds on 0416 10 3993. We will hold an information session and AGM in the near future.

Thanks,
Nathalia Knights

__________________________________________________________________________

Under 10’s and 12’s School Footy 2017 – Sign Up Form

Please complete and return to your school office by Friday 24th February, 2017

Childs Name: ________________________________________________________________

Parents Name/s: _____________________________________________________________

Contact Number: m: ____________________________ School: __________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Level:  
  ○ Under 10’s
  ○ Under 12’s

__________________________________________________________________________
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 two weeks 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.

Contact the principal for further information.
Schedule 3

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations
(Nathalia Primary School Council Election)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Nathalia Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on 03/03/17.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on 10/03/17.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

.................................................................................................. Principal
School Council Elections

Schedule 5B: Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate:

........................................................................................................ 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.
The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of ................................................................. who is/are currently enrolled at this school.
The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Yes / No (please circle)

Signature of Nominator Date / /

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:

I accept the nomination and 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 the eligibility of a candidate and nominator. 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 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.

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