

Nathalia Primary School Newsletter

March 2nd, 2022

Swimming

The school swimming program concluded last week with all of the students who participated showing a great deal of progress. Thank you in particular to our parent volunteers Diana Baxter, Katrina Berry and Karen Davis for assisting with the swimming groups. The program cannot operate as successfully without the contribution of parents.

The children who have progressed a complete level will be presented with certificates on Monday at assembly.



Nathalia Kids are Friendly Kids Students of the Week — Nathalia Kids Wonder



Sports Awards: Theodore Berry, John Pridmore, Amelia Patone, Tate Butler, Blair Watson. (absent Miller Butler, Ava Bourke)

Students of the Week (last week): Chase Higgins, Daisy Broughan, Ella Schram, Rhyley Lawless, Sienna Balchan, Alexis Boxall, Jack Londey.

Students of the Week: Theodore Berry, Isabella Berry, Basil Jay Payumo, Jyhden Peterson, Ruby Davis, Blayde Wiki-King. (absent Rayan Warrun)

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday March 3rd (tomorrow) — Parent's Club Meet & Greet at 9am in School BBQ Area

Friday March 4th — NO Canteen: International Sausage Day NPS - Sausage Sizzle \$2.50 per sausage

Friday March 11th — Pupil Free Day (staff training / Indigenous studies)

Monday March 14th — Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday March 16th — Meals on Wheels (Year 6 students)

Tuesday March 22nd — School Council Meeting

Thursday March 31st — Interschool Athletics Carnival, Nathalia Recreation Reserve

Friday April 8th — Final Day of Term 1

School Council Elections

Information is attached to this newsletter regarding the forthcoming School Council elections. Nomination forms are also available at the office and need to be lodged at the school in the next fortnight.

The following people have finished their term on School Council and are eligible for re-election:

Kaye Bernhardt, Rachel Russell, Amy Carey, Nicky Pyszkowski, Lisa-Ann Moor and Jennifer McKillop.

These people have not completed their two-year term and will remain on Council:

Philippa Schapper, Dianna Baxter, Leanne Halden and Paul Broughan.

The School Council can have up to 15 members including the principal who is the constituting officer.

This leaves the following number of vacancies: Parents – 6, Education Department – 3, Community Reps – 1

School Council is a vital component in the structure of the school and is the school's governing body. I urge all parents to please give strong consideration to the prospect of nominating for School Council.

The Parent Nomination Form can be obtained by the school and needs to be returned to the office by 18/03/2022.

Chris McCallum — Principal

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

It is important that funding made available in 2022 supports students to participate in school trips, camps and sporting activities this year rather than being held for future years. This funding can also be used with any funding accrued from previous years. Please note activities will only take place if they meet COVIDSafe requirements.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you **do not need** to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You can find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page. A copy of the application form is attached to the end of the newsletter.

PARENTS CLUB 2022

The Nathalia Primary School Parents Club would like to welcome all new and existing families to the new school year! It's so exciting to think we may finally have a full year of classes and fun activities for the kids.

The Parents Committee is an integral part of the school community, raising vital funds to help create the brilliant place it is. In the past, we have purchased new library books, contributed to the new BBQ area, the refrigerated drinking fountain plus many other projects around the school. In addition to this, we provide fun & social events for parents & their kids throughout the year such as the Mother's & Father's Day breakfasts.

Each year we seek new parents/guardians to join us to replace outgoing parents, who have either fulfilled the role for a few years, or no longer have children at Primary School.

As times move forward, it becomes harder to commit to many roles, but we assure you this group does not require a lot of your time throughout the year.

If you could help us out, we'd love to see you at 9am on Thursday 3rd March in the school BBQ area for a meet & greet.

Amy Carey — President

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Attendance at or above 98%</p> | <p>These students have only missed 4 days or less in a school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They have every chance of achieving to the best of their ability - These students are likely to have positive friendship groups |
| <p>Attendance 95 – 97%</p> | <p>These students have only missed 5-10 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are more likely to be achieving well at school - With only occasional absences, these students will find it fairly easy to get back in touch with the learning program after absences |
| <p>Attendance 90 – 94%</p> | <p>These students have missed 11-20 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These students may find it challenging to keep in touch with lessons or with class work - Aim to improve your attendance rate |
| <p>Attendance 80 – 89%</p> | <p>These students have missed 21-40 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These students have missed up to 1 day every week, which equates to 2 ½ years schooling missed by Year 12 - It will be very difficult to keep in touch with school work and to maintain social connections - Please contact the school immediately to discuss a plan for improving attendance rates |
| <p>Attendance below 80%</p> | <p>These students have missed more than 40 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These students have missed more than 1 day per week - Students will be ‘disconnected’ from school. They are almost certain to experience difficulties both academically and socially - Please contact the school immediately to discuss a plan for improving attendance rates |

SUNDAY 20TH MARCH 10-1

INDOOR MARKET

***Back on
the Rack***
Market

PRELOVED FASHION

NATHALIA COMMUNITY CENTRE

BOOK A STALL OR
COME ALONG FOR SOME
SHOPPING AND FUN!

TO BOOK A STALL (\$30)
CALL CASUAL STEP
58662475 OR SEARCH
FOR US ON TRY
BOOKING.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

**casual
step**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE KELLY SZAKAL GO FUND ME PAGE

International Sausage Day



*The canteen is closed this Friday
so the school is celebrating
International Sausage Day.*

\$2.50 for a sausage in bread.

All proceeds go to Junior School Council.

Lunch is served at 12.30pm.

Nathalia Primary School

School Council Election 2022 - 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 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 i 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 i 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 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

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

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

...../...../..... (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on

...../...../..... (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 | |
| 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 | |

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.

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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.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/carer details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Student details

| Student's surname | Student's first name | Student ID | Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy) | Year level |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | |
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant Date / /

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – General eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one
 - on the first day of Term two
- a) be a holder of one or more of the eligible financially-means tested cards **OR** be a temporary foster parent, and;
- b) submit an application to the school by the due date.

For the list of eligible financially-means tested cards refer to the CSEF Policy:
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/policy>

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Special Consideration

A special consideration category exists for

- Families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, in community detention or are asylum seeker families
- Students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care

For more information, see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/guidance/eligibility>

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carers concession card being validated successfully with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (31 January 2022) or term two (26 April 2022).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents/carers so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a temporary Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

If you are seeking special consideration, mark this in the form and provide a copy of the relevant documentation.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2022 closes on the 24 June 2022.