

Nathalia Primary School Newsletter

February 13th, 2019

Swimming

The swimming program continues tomorrow after a day off today due to cooler weather. Thank you to the parents who have been able to help out with the program by supervising swimming groups. Your contribution is appreciated.

The remainder of the program will operate from 1.00—2.00pm. The children in levels 1 and 2 will be at the pool from 1.00—1.30pm and the other children will swim from 1.30—2.00pm.

The school swimming program will operate on February 11—15, February 20—22 and February 25. The program will generally not operate when the temperature is predicted to be below 25 degrees. The swimming program is a compulsory part of the curriculum and establishes life long skills for the children.

Student Attendance

It is important that children attend school on time on every available day. Parents are asked to contact the school if your child is going to be absent. A text message is sent from the office to parents if we are not informed that a student will be absent from school. Parents of children who have high levels of absenteeism may be asked to meet at the school to discuss the reason why a child is regularly absent.

The school's attendance data is monitored by the Education Department and policies are in place where, in extreme cases, absenteeism is handled beyond the confines of the school.

If you have any concerns with school attendance, please contact the school and we will assist wherever possible.

Bovine Inseminations Sponsor Donation

Thank you to Bovine Inseminations—Herd Improvement Service for their kind donation of \$200 to the school. Bovine Inseminations sponsors 35 schools in our area in a similar manner and their contribution to education in our community is appreciated.

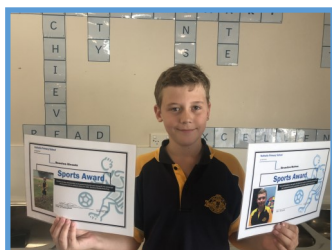
The funds donated by Bovine Inseminations will be allocated to a priority area in our school.

Nathalia Kids are Friendly Kids

Listening

Chloe, Molly, Tyler, Jack, Oscar and Olivia

Sports Awards: Brandon and Braxton (abs)



Dates to Remember:

Swimming February 11-15, 20-22, 25

February 20th—Meals on Wheels

February 22nd—Wear Red for the Furies

February 25th—School Council Meeting

March 11th—Labour Day Public Holiday

March 18th—Leadership Conference for Year 6

April 5th—End of Term 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 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. Department 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 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 life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one 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 following the commencement of Term one 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.

Department 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.