



Nathalia Primary School Newsletter

Friday 14th March, 2025

Principal's Message - Mr Troy Woolley

We have just finished week 7 of the term and nearly at the Easter break already...how time flies.

NAPLAN

Well done to our grade 3 and 5 students who have already completed Writing, Reading and Conventions of Language. The final subject Mathematics will be held on Tuesday. Any students that have missed one of the sessions will be able to make up their test over the next two weeks.

PARENTS CLUB

Parents Club are looking for volunteers to be involved in fundraising events such as Mother's Day, Raffles etc. If you would like to be involved please make contact with Leanne in the office to register your interest.

ATTENDANCE

So far this year our attendance has been up in comparison to past years. We have been doing a lot of work around getting students to school and the importance of students having routine and consistency around their education. Every day at school is important. Students who have regular days off miss out on relationships, curriculum content and the impact can add up over time.

Everyday Counts – A day here or there doesn't seem like much but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Prep to Year 12 that is...	This means the best your child can achieve is...
1 day a fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	Nearly 1 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

ATTENDANCE (cont.)

The impact of a day a fortnight as shown in this example adds up to 4 weeks of school a year and over the length of time students spend at school can add up to 1 ½ years missed. In drastic cases we see that 3 days a week adds up to finishing with a Year 4 equivalent by the time a person reaches 18 years of age. This impact would dramatically reduce life and work opportunities in that instance.

We encourage all families to attend school every day. If you are having any difficulties with getting your child to school please make contact with us as we are more than willing to support you in this matter. At this point of the year we have 90 students that have not had a day off. We would like to celebrate these students with a party if they make it to the end of the term with under 2 days off. Amazing achievement for these students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the end of this newsletter are election forms for parents to nominate for school council. Each year 4 positions will become available to participate in school council. It is a great chance to be involved in the finer details of school governance and the decision making processes that impact the operational running of the school such as finances, buildings and contractors.

If anyone has any questions regarding school council, the time commitment or school councillor attendance expectations, please do not hesitate to contact the school to speak with the Principal, Troy Woolley.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a number of unnamed and unclaimed items in the red lost property box in the Office here at school. If you are missing a jumper, drink bottle or lunchbox they may be in the box.

Unfortunately, there are no school hats in the box. These are prized possessions of the children at the moment. Please make sure that your child's hat is named so that it can be returned easily should it be mislaid.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 31st March: School Council AGM & March Meeting at 6pm in the Staffroom

Friday 4th April: FoodFight - BBQ & Colour Run

Friday 4th April: End of Term 1 (2.20pm dismissal)

Tuesday 22nd April: Term 2 begins - 9am assembly

Friday April 25th: ANZAC Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Friday May 9th: Mother's Day Event (details to come) & Mother's Day Stall

ALERT: GET READY FOR THE FUNNEST, MESSIEST DAY EVER!



Hello families,

We are once again holding a Food Fight to raise much needed funds for Foodbank Victoria with a target of \$500 this year and we are asking families to pitch in!

After a successful event in 2024, we are super excited to announce that we will be holding our 2025 event on Friday 4th April (last day of term) on the oval at Nathalia Primary School!

What is the Foodbank Food Fight?

Who doesn't love the idea of a Food Fight? Here's the chance for our entire school to engage in the naughtiest way yet* to boost school spirit and help raise vital funds for Foodbank Victoria. It's just like a school colour fun run, but so much more fun.

The Food Fight fun happens at school and the fundraising happens at home. You get to create your own online profile, set your fundraising target and then choose your target prizes. In your profile you will have a unique cyber safe link to share with your family and friends so they can donate and help get you close to your target.

Money raised will go to Foodbank Victoria so they can continue to feed 57,000 people in need, every day!

**No ACTUAL food will be harmed in the making of this event.*

What do we need you to do?

All we need you to do this week is create an online profile at foodfight.com.au. The class with the most profiles by *Friday 24th March* will all get an icy pole!

This is an inclusive fundraiser we would love you to be a part of! If you would like to come down and watch your kids run (or help throw the food!), we would love to see you there!



REMINDER: NATHALIA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

A reminder to families that in 2024 we made the decision to make Nathalia Primary School a **nut free** school. This decision was made in the interest of safety for staff and students who have nut allergies.

In the past, we tried to manage this at an individual class level, however, we had instances where this was not successful.

We understand that this may be frustrating for some families, although, the safety of everyone at school is something we take seriously.



SCHOOL YARD SUPERVISION

Parents are reminded that student supervision in the school yard commences at 8.30am.

Please drop your children off after this time.

A FEW LOCAL SPORTING TEAMS LOOKING FOR PLAYERS



**SEASON
25**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**THE WFNC ARE ON THE HUNT
FOR A 5THS/U11S PLAYERS &
COACH**

**GAME TIME IS SATURDAY
MORNINGS 8:30AM- PRIOR TO
THE 4THS GAME AND WILL RUN
FOR 20-30 MINUTES**

FREE REGISTRATION

**NEW PLAYERS AND FAMILIES
ARE WELCOMED**

Trainings may have started but all players more than welcome to join in!

FOURTHS FOOTBALL TRAINING





PURPLES

*Every Tuesday night
4.30pm start*

*All new and present players welcome
Training once a week until further notice*



PRESEASON TRAINING

UNDER 14 (4THS)

FOOTBALL

DON'T MIND THE DATE

ALL WELCOME

THURSDAY 13TH FEB

5PM

MORE INFO TO COME ON

UNDER 11 FOOTBALL TRAINING



2025 JUNIOR FOOTBALL TRAINING

U10's & U12's

Starting Thursday 13th March

@ Nathalia Rec Reserve (Small Oval)

4:30 PM

Everyone Welcome!

For more info: please contact Jess Eadie on 0431 199 568

Become a Berry Street foster carer

Partner with us and support a local
child or young person who is unable
to live with their family.

Enquire today
berrystreet.org.au/fostercare
Ph. 5822 8100



Form 2: notice of election and call for nominations

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 4.00pm on Friday 21st March, 2025.
The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Friday 28th March 2025.

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	
Parent member	
Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2025
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2026
Number of positions:	4

Membership category	
School employee member	
Term of office	Year
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	
Number of positions:	1

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

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 signature
<i>Troy Woolley</i>

Form 3: self-nomination form for parent member category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Name

Residential Address:

Contact phone (<i>mobile or landline</i>):

Email:

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

Statement	Yes <i>(Mark with an x)</i>	No <i>(Mark with an x)</i>
I am an employee of the Department of Education		
I am an employee of the school council		
I am engaged in work at and for the school.		

I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that:

- I am not and have not been insolvent under administration within the last three years
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

Signature of Candidate

Date:	
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You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

The 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). Further, the name, membership category, gender (optional), term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the department will be forwarded to the Department of Education by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on:

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted.

If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

Fact sheet: 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** – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. 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.