

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

FEBRUARY	Friday 16th	Assembly 9am Performance by 34P
	Friday 16th	Deposit due Somers Camp no late payments accepted
	Wednesday 21st	NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS
	Friday 23rd	Assembly 9am Performance by 12A
	Monday 26th	Deposit due Canberra Camp no late payments accepted
	Tuesday 27th	MPSSA Swimming District
	Wednesday 28th	NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS
MARCH	Thursday 1st	Payment due STATE SCHOOL SPECTACULAR no late payments accepted
	Friday 2nd	Assembly 9am Performance by 56D
	Friday 9th	Assembly 9am Performance by 34S
	Friday 16th	House Colour Spirit Day
	Friday 16th	Assembly 9am Performance by 12C
	Monday 19th	Teeth on Wheels
	Tuesday 20th	Prep Scooter Clinic
	Friday 23rd	Assembly 9am Performance by Prep C
	Friday 23rd	SCHOOL FETE 3-6pm
	Thursday 29th	END OF TERM 1 SCHOOL FINISHES @2:10pm
APRIL	Monday 16th	TERM 2 BEGINS

**Key Messages from the Principal in this Newsletter:**

- Bunnings Thank you
- School Council Elections/Nominations
- Head Lice
- Fete
- Coles Sports Voucher
- Celebration



Dear Parents and Guardians,

**Bunnings Thank-You:** Last Saturday we had our first fundraising event for the year, with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Melton. It was lovely seeing some of our families in the community enjoying family life on a Saturday. A big THANK-YOU needs to go to our Parents and Friends group for the organisation of the BBQ and for helping for a large part of the day, also to the parents and staff who volunteered some time on the weekend to support the school. Thank-you so much!



**School Council Elections/Nominations:** School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools, and being a member of the school council is a rewarding and challenging experience. Acting as a team, council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students.

The functions of a school council are specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 and include:

- establishing the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- participating in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure
- developing, reviewing and updating school policies
- raising funds for school-related purposes
- maintaining the school's grounds and buildings
- entering into contracts (such as for cleaning or construction work)
- reporting annually to the school community and to the Department
- creating interest in the school in the wider community
- informing itself of and taking into account the views of the community
- regulating and facilitating the after hours use of school premises and grounds



School Council Elections are held each year after the last official meeting of the previous council, which is the February meeting. This year we have **3 vacancies in the parent category** and 2 in the Department of Education category. If you are interested in becoming a School Councillor please complete a nomination form at the office before 4 pm on the 22nd February 2018. You can self-nominate or nominate someone who is a parent at the school for the role. If we have more nominations than vacancies we will need to hold an election. News on this will follow as necessary. If you would like to know more about the role of school council, I would be happy to talk to you.

**Head Lice:** Unfortunately since returning to school after the summer holidays, head lice has continued to be an ongoing problem not only for our school but for many schools across Victoria. Sherrie Brezina, our school first aid officer, checks children's hair regularly throughout the year. She sends home notes to the family when nits or lice are found to all families in the class where they were found. She monitors the children the following morning to check children have been treated effectively. We believe this goes a long way in helping ease this ongoing, frustrating problem, however it relies on a commitment from all families to complete the entire treatment.

When hair is first treated, this usually kills any lice present, however if any nits (eggs) are not removed with a specially designed comb, they will remain in the hair and hatch between 7-10 days. Therefore it is important to re-check children's hair after one week to ensure no lice has hatched. It takes 7-10 days once the lice has hatched for them to mature enough to lay more eggs, so if they are found in the very early stages of their life, they have not yet had the opportunity to lay more eggs, therefore breaking the cycle and stopping the problem and spread amongst the community.

It takes a commitment from **all** to ensure we beat this ongoing problem. Many families do the right thing and treat their children thoroughly when they have been identified as having lice, however, this will not stop the problem unless **everyone** is committed to ensuring they treat their children effectively. A trick I learnt towards the end of my children's primary school years was to smother the dry hair with cheap conditioner then comb through with the special nit comb. I repeated this every 7 days for about a month, finally breaking the cycle. Using the conditioner ensures the comb glides through the hair easily, and the lice get stuck in the gooey substance.

Thank-you for your patience, perseverance and commitment to working as a community to help deal with this school wide problem.

**Fete:** Last year we cancelled the planned fete due to the inclement weather. We have decided to hold it in Term 1 on Friday 23rd March. It usually runs from 3.00 – 6.00 pm. Please mark this date in your calendar and come along and enjoy the fun.

**Coles Sports Voucher:** If you shop at Coles, you may have noticed them handing out Sports for Schools Vouchers. We are collecting these so if you have any please ask you child to put them in the boxes around the school.

**Celebration:** One of our students Maiyada in Grade 3 has featured in the 2018 Melton City Council Calendar. The photo was taken at Harmony Day last year where all the cultures across the area celebrated.



Michelle Costa

Principal

MWPS - High Levels of Learning for All

### SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S REPORT



Hello MWPS,

I hope you are all settling in well with your new teachers and classmates.

Our year 6's are having lots of fun with their Prep Buddies. The Grade 6 buddy goes to the Prep classes once a week to help their buddy learn to read.

Alana



Dear Melton West,

I hope you are all settling in well in your classrooms. I hope you are all enjoying it here at our great school Melton West.

At school it is where the 'magic happens', its where you make new friends and where you get a good education.

I love this school and the things you can do here.

Moving forward With the Passion to Succeed. Make goals in your life to help you succeed.

Sui

It is the mission of Melton West PS to work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for all.

# 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.

# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAYS

In the Education State, we achieve excellence by consistently focusing on improving the achievements of learners across Victoria, whether it is through improving the quality of educational services or changing the way we teach.

The most important thing we can do to improve student outcomes is to develop and improve the skills of our teachers.

The Victorian Government will continue to provide opportunities to develop professional, passionate teachers and principals and equip them with the right knowledge and skills for a modern classroom.

To ensure we support the learning and development of not only our students, but our teachers too; we are committed to providing professional development opportunities for our teaching workforce.



## WHAT ARE THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAYS?

As part of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017, teachers will receive one day per term when they are out of the classroom to focus on the improved delivery of high quality teaching and learning.

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR CHILD

Your child's teacher will spend four days per year further developing their skills in areas that are aligned to the school priorities. Your child will directly benefit from these improvements in their daily learning.

On these days, an alternate teacher will be provided with the learning plan for the day and be well equipped to assist your child with their learning needs.

We are scheduling the professional practice days ahead of time so there is minimal impact to students and, where possible, there is consistency in teaching.

If you would like more information on the professional practice days and when they are planned, please contact your School Principal.



### Extend OSHC at MELTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

The past couple of weeks we have been very busy at after school care! We have started a pen pal program with St Albans Primary School and are very excited about sending each other mail. The children have been very busy creating little crafts and letters to share.

We will be starting an underwater theme over the next couple of weeks, which will carry through to term 2.

#### **WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK..**

#### **COOKING WEEK!**

Monday 19th: Peppermint crisp fudge & Icebergs

Tuesday 20th: Marshmallow men & fairy bread , Dodgeball

Wednesday 21st: Honey joys, Octopus

Thursday 22nd: Lemon and coconut slice , Rob the nest

Friday 23rd: Funny face biscuits , Knock out

#### **THE EXTEND SUPERSTAR FOR THE FORTNIGHT IS.. SHAE MADDERN!**

For always willing to help staff and children, having fantastic behaviour at after school care and being kind towards others.

For all new enrolments or bookings please visit [www.lookedafter.com](http://www.lookedafter.com)

It is the mission of Melton West PS to work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for all.



## Great news! The Teeth on Wheels team are coming to your facility!



f TeethOnWheelsAustralia #teethonwheels

Teeth on Wheels are a highly qualified dental team who will be coming out to our facility. They press their focus on diminishing dental anxiety by practicing pain free dental treatment. Their mobile clinics are designed to be child friendly, making a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

The onsite dental clinic is able to provide all treatments listed below:

- ✓ Examination
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Preventative Fissure Sealants
- ✓ Scale and Clean
- ✓ Fluoride treatment
- ✓ Minor Fillings

We highly recommend signing up with this special program to ensure your child's Oral Health needs are met.

[www.teethonwheels.com.au](http://www.teethonwheels.com.au)

**TeethOnWheels™**  
a positive dental experience



**Blue Light**

**MELTON BLUE LIGHT**

**FRIDAY 16TH FEB**

**BEACH PARTY THEME!**

**6-8PM | PRIMARY AGE**

**\$5 ENTRY AT THE DOOR | NO BACK PACKS NO PASS OUTS**

**THE GAP ON GRAHAM, 5 GRAHAM ST, MELTON**

CHILDREN TO BE DROPPED OFF & COLLECTED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT  
STEPHEN.TURNER@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU  
OR THEGAPONGRAHAM@GMAIL.COM

MELTON BLUE LIGHT  
ASK YOUR PARENTS TO LIKE THE PAGE IF YOU ARE UNDER 13

BLUELIGHT\_VIC

## SUPPORT & TRANSITIONS

### SCHOOL COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXHIBITION

*A great opportunity to chat with disability service providers about NDIS, student career pathways, transition options and support services.*

**Thursday 8th March**  
**5.00pm to 6.30pm**

LOCATED IN THE VCAL ROOMS



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

# HARMONY DAY

THE WILLOWS HISTORICAL PARK  
RESERVE ROAD, MELTON  
SATURDAY 17 MARCH 2018  
11AM - 3PM

AFRICAN  
DRUMMING

MULTICULTURAL  
FOOD

CULTURAL  
PERFORMANCES

KIDS  
ACTIVITIES

FREE  
EVENT

HENNA  
FACE PAINTING  
& MORE...

COME ALONG  
AND CELEBRATE  
OUR VIBRANT  
COMMUNITY

Harmony Day is an opportunity for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. The theme of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs.

For more information visit [melton.vic.gov.au/harmonyday](http://melton.vic.gov.au/harmonyday) or call 9747 7200



FREE

VICTORIA  
WIDE  
SERVICE

For:

Parents

Grandparents

Carers

of children aged 2  
to 12 years

## Positive Parenting Telephone Service

Our free 6 to 10 Week program helps you to:



Have  
Stronger  
more positive  
relationships



Set rules and  
limits



Manage  
everyday  
behaviour  
problems

Participants complete a workbook or online modules which are supported by weekly 30 minute phone calls with a trained parenting educator.

All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.



Enrol now and make a  
positive start to last a  
lifetime

Call us for more information or to enrol

1800 880 660

Enrollments are taken all year round

