SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Department of Education and Training has approved the commencement of the electoral process for the elections of School Councillors for 2017. Below is an outline of the process and a timeline for the completion of the elections. I have also included some information about School Council, its membership establishment and role within our school.

Membership
Our School Council consists of 8 elected parent members, 4 elected members of staff, and the Principal, with two optional School Council appointed community members.

Terms of Office
The term of office is for two years.

Retiring School Councillors
The following members of School Council, while eligible for re-election, retire at the end of this month.
- Parents: Lisa Meddings, Geraldine Klein, Amanda McGill
- Staff: Laurence Hall,

Proposed Timetable for Elections
- Fri 17th Feb: Call for Nominations
- Fri 24th Feb: Nominations close 4:00 pm.
- Mon 27th Feb: Nominations displayed at School.
  
  Election held if Required.
- Fri 10th March: Close of Ballot and Votes counted.
- Wed. 15th March: School Council AGM. School Council Meeting.

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?
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.

- 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.
  Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be community members.
  The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections.
Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Woodlands Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making, with particular attention paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability and vulnerable children.

Woodlands Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Every person involved in Woodlands Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Woodlands Primary School will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
10. Value the input of families and carers and correspond with them regularly.

The Woodlands Primary School - Child Safe policies can be found on our school website http://www.woodlandspsvic.edu.au/
Would you like to get more involved in your child’s education?

Would you like to get to know other parents at the school?

Is helping in the classroom not really your thing, or having a toddler makes it tricky?

Why not consider coming along to help out with the Parents and Friends.

We are a group of Woodlands parents who meet once a month to help organise some of the school fundraisers. Each year we help run activities such as Mothers/Fathers Day Stalls, Easter Raffle, Christmas Raffle, Cookie Dough Drives or Family Portrait Days.

All of the money raised from these events goes directly into facilities for the school and your child. In the last few years we have raised money for new air conditioners, IPads, audio visual equipment, sporting equipment... the list goes on.

As siblings are future students at Woodlands they are always welcome at the P&F, so if you have a few hours to spare each month (or even a few minutes) please consider giving the P&F a hand.

**Come See**

**Join the Fun!**

A fun day out - free sausage sizzle, face painting, Animal farm and more!

Saturday 25th February, 2017
10.00 am to 1:00 pm - opening ceremony 11:30 a.m.
Langwarrin Community Centre
2 Lang Road, Langwarrin

Please RSVP to Reception by 15th February, 2017:
reception@langwarrincc.org.au or 9789 7563

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In order (from back)
Friendship Conner Oehm - Harry Worton - Brooklyn Sharkey - Bella Rolls
Perseverance Ruby Young - Tre Roberts - Gypsy Visser - Jay Lugrin

(Middle)
Loyalty Jenna Byrne - Jorja Dilworth - Clay Rogers - Wil MacGregor
Endeavour Paige Inglis - Shaun Park - Thea Mills - Harrison Marks

(Front)
Vice-School Captains Georgia Kostiuk - Jai Thoday
School Captains Lucas Medew - McKenzie Jamous
Sports Captains Hayley Ponchard - Max Poulios

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MEET OUR 2017 VICE & HOUSE CAPTAINS

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P&F NEWS

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Invitation
Langwarrin Community Centre Inc.

Official Community Garden Opening
& Centre Open Day

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Netball Skill Development
For 6-10 year olds

Positive introduction to netball with skill activities, minor games and modified matches
Weekly program during school terms with accredited and experienced coaches

P: 9776 5155
E: netball@fdna.com.au
www.franktonnetballicom.com.au

Wednesdays: 4:00pm-5pm
Saturdays: 10:00am-11am