School Council Elections 2014

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 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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- **A mandated elected DEECD 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 appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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: stand for election as a member of the school council

or

encourage 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?
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. Nomination forms are available from the school office and can be submitted until 4.00 p.m. on the 11th February.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal by 4.00 p.m. on the 11th February.

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 election if it is required.

**Contact the principal for further information.**

**Notice of Election and Call for Nominations**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Mount Dandenong Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm by Tuesday, 11th February 2014. If required the ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 25th February.

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 –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Timeline**

- **Vacancies** – 2 DEECD representative (school staff)
  - 2 Parent representatives

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE**

Mount Dandenong Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday, 4 February 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b) Closing date for nominations Tuesday, 11th February 2014

c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted Monday 17th, February 2014

d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed On or before Tuesday 18, February 2014

e) Close of ballot Tuesday, 25th February 2014

f) Vote count Wednesday 26th February 2014

g) Declaration of poll Thursday 27th February

h) Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside) Monday 3rd March 2014

i) First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside) Monday 3rd March 2014

Nomination Forms can be collected from the office. Please note that the dates and times will be strictly followed.

Mike Leonard
Principal