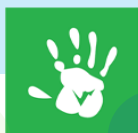


# Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

## Principals Message

### Positive Start

The start to the year has gone extremely smoothly for most classes. At this time of the year, we put a priority on staff getting to know their students and working out their preferences and any particular dislikes or sensory issues that they have. This is where parents come to the fore as they know their child better than anyone which is why we are looking to complete Student Support Group (SSG) meetings early in the term. This will give staff the opportunity to discuss early positives or start to solve any issues with parents as soon as we can.

### Student Support Group (SSG) Meetings

All staff will be contacting parents by the end of next week at the latest to arrange for a formal student support group meeting. These meetings are a requirement for all of our students and need to occur at least twice per year. Parents are asked to bring along any ideas that they have for their child's learning program and to consider priorities that they have for their student both in the short and long term. Once completed a written account of the SSG meetings will be sent home for all parents to keep and monitor across the course of the year.

### Diaries

All students will be bringing home a student diary on a daily basis and this will be the primary form of communication with parents each day. Parents are asked to check the diaries each day, read any comments that staff make in the diary and use it to let staff know of any issues or upcoming events in the child's life. Parents can also call the school if they have any queries about the day and staff will always contact parents by phone if there was a significant issue that they need to be aware of.

### Hats, Caps and Sunscreen

As a sun smart school all students are required to wear a hat whilst they are in the yard at recess and lunchtime as well as while they are on outings. Unfortunately, sun smart hats do not include caps. Many of our students are wearing caps to and from school and while this is fine all students must have a broad brimmed hat or bucket hat to wear during the day. All classrooms have sunscreen in them, and teachers and ES staff will apply sunscreen to students during this sunny period of the year. There are a number of students that have allergies to sunscreens. If your child has such an allergy, please let your child's teacher know and if possible supply a sunscreen that they can use each day. All staff are particularly aware of the sun at this time of the year and we will do everything that we can to ensure students remain as sun smart as possible.

### School Council News

Our first school council meeting for the year will be held next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 6:00pm in the staffroom. Interested parents are invited to attend the meeting, as we will be calling for member nominations over the following weeks.

Meetings are usually held twice a term. They are held on Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00pm. An additional meeting is held in term 4 to set and accept the school's budget for the following year.

If any parents are interested in being a part of school council, please feel free to come in and ask about what is involved.

The Annual Reporting Meeting (AGM) of the school council will be held on Wednesday 15th March, 6.00pm.

We are now calling for nominations for school council. An information flyer on school council and nomination forms are included in this newsletter. Additional nomination forms are available from the school office. Staff and parents can nominate themselves for the election, or someone else can nominate them. Nominations for School Council will close on Monday 6th March, 2023.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**School Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 15th February,**  
**6.00pm @ Belvoir**

**Annual Reporting Meeting**  
**(AGM)**  
**Wednesday 15th March,**  
**6.00pm @ Belvoir**

**Term 1 Finish 6th April**  
**@ 2.30pm**

**Term 2 Start 26th April**

### Dyson's Buses

### PHONE NUMBERS

**BUS 1: 0460 935 609**

**BUS 2: 0460 875 492**

**BUS 3: 0460 896 490**

**BUS 4: 0460 869 012**

**Belvoir Bus: 0431 756 813**



The Belvoir Wellbeing Team would like to extend a warm welcome to all existing and new families coming to our school in 2023. We are very much looking forward to supporting students, families and staff alike to promote positive health and wellbeing throughout our school community. As a starting point, we would like to introduce ourselves and share about our roles and the initiatives we support.

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**Andrew Dear:** Leading Teacher- Wellbeing and Inclusion

Responsibilities within school: Part of the Wellbeing and Leadership teams here at Belvoir Special School. Largely my role is to support students with their wellbeing whilst at school. I oversee different programs that allow for students to better engage in their learning and interactions with their peers such as the Hands on Learning and Breakfast Club. This year I have the privilege of coordinating our Student Rep Council (SRC) and School Assemblies

Contact details: [andrew.dear@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.dear@education.vic.gov.au)



**Leah Sisley:** Wellbeing Liaison Officer

Responsibilities within school: Provide support to students in Out of Home Care, ensuring the students support group inclusive of teaching staff, external services, families, carers etc work together to enhance all aspects of the student experience. Also to support wellbeing for staff with initiatives such as the Wellbeing Club etc and work alongside Grace & Andrew in promoting Health & Wellbeing across the school.

Contact details: [leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au)



**Grace Churches:** Mental Health Practitioner

Responsibilities within school: Secondary consultation and support for students, teaching staff and families to identify and respond to students experiencing mental health concerns and support families to engage external services where required. Lead programs and initiatives that promote positive mental health and wellbeing within school community i.e. Belvoir Gardening Club, Brave Program.

Contact details: [grace.churches@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:grace.churches@education.vic.gov.au)

# ORANGE POD NEWS

## School Captain/House Captain Elections 2023

During week 3, Orange Pod students finalized and then did their speeches for House Captain and School Captain. The speeches were done very well and were very well received. Well done to all students who put in the hard work to get them completed in such a short time frame. A big thank you to Purple Pod who assisted with voting by attending and listening carefully. Thank you again to Purple Pod teachers also who helped facilitate the speeches. It was greatly appreciated.

On Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> we completed the House Captain speeches. In what would be the closest ever vote count in recorded history anywhere around the world, once the votes were counted up, we ended with all four houses having two candidates finish tied on the same number of votes! This is an indication of how good the candidates were and how well they presented. Well done to the 16 students who nominated and a big congratulations to the following students on successfully being voted in:

**Mitta- Isabelle Biggs & Sebastian Day**

**Hume- Ayla Sedgwick & Dylan Rogers**

**Kiewa- Ky Pottinger & Jatalia Briggs-Morris**

**Murray- Kaitlyn Holland & Ethan Evans**

On Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> we completed the School Captain speeches. Six different candidates were vying for School Captain. Again the group of candidates was very strong and it was a very close vote count. Every candidate spoke very well and demonstrated the hard work they had put into their speech during the build up. The school captain speeches were broadcast across the school and everyone was full of praise for our applicants. After another very close count our captains were chosen. Congratulations and good luck for the year to :

**School Captains- Ethan Bennell & Lisa Hall**

**Vice-Captains- Tyler Atkinson-Combe & Josh McLennan**

# BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATION

**Hi everyone,**

**My son Lukas is turning 9 on Saturday (11th February). I put a post on Facebook to see if we could get a few sports cars to swing past our house for him and the post went viral. It has been liked and shared over 1000 times and thanks to this, Lukas is now having his very own car show for his birthday next Saturday. I would love to extend the invitation to every student at Belvoir school. I have attached a link to his birthday car show in this invite. We hope to see you there.**

**Mel Fleming**

<https://facebook.com/events/s/lukas-birthday-show/1409626929442195/>

## **Parental Concerns or Issues**

Belvoir Special School welcomes feedback, both positive and negative, and is committed to continuous improvement. We value open communication with our families and are committed to understanding complaints and addressing them appropriately. We recognise that the complaints process provides an important opportunity for reflection and learning.

We encourage and value open positive relationships with our school community and understand that it is in the best interests of students for there to be a trusting relationship between families and our school.

Parents are able to contact the school through the student diaries which are sent home with students each day, or they can ring the school to speak with classroom staff before or after school most days.

If the matter is urgent parents are able to email [belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au) or call the school on 0260 598 987 and speak with or organize a time to discuss the issue with either Emma, myself or relevant staff.

Our full complaints and other policies can be found at:

[Policies and Forms - Belvoir Special Development School \(belvoirss.vic.edu.au\)](https://belvoirss.vic.edu.au)





# ROOM 1 NEWS

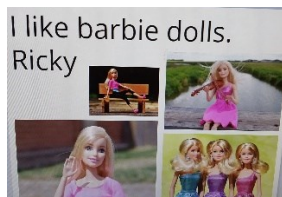
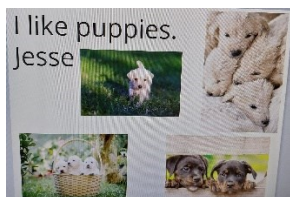
Cas & Sarah



Room 1 has had a fantastic start to term one. We love having fun together, and exploring the toys, equipment and play spaces.

This week we have been sharing the story 'Macca's Makeover', and doing some styling using play dough.

We have enjoyed identifying lots of things that we like as part of our term topic and learn to play sessions and we wrote a book creator book about our favourite things.



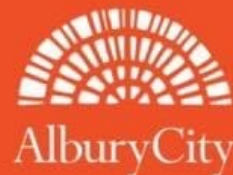
We have enjoyed singing songs together and especially enjoy our counting songs that include exercise moves.

We love sharing photos of our work on SeeSaw for our parents and carers to see.

**From the Room 1 Team: Cas P & Sarah M**

# Special Olympics Expo

Your local club, Ovens & Murray



Come and try a range of sports and find out more about the opportunities to get involved with Special Olympics.

Food, drinks, giveaways and entertainment provided.

Athletics



Powerlifting



Basketball



Swimming



Bocce



Ten-pin Bowling




**Date:** Sunday 5 March 2023

**Where:** Hovell Tree Park, Albury

**Time:** 11am to 2pm

For more information and for expo registration please scan our QR code.

 /Ovensandmurray

**SPORTAUS** Supported by the Australian Sports Commission

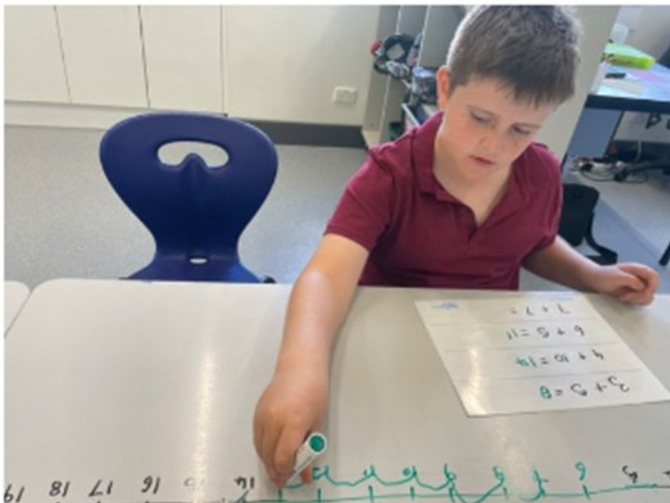




# ROOM 7 NEWS

Michelle, Lisa, Tulashi, Fiona

We welcome all of Green POD back to school for the 2023 year! Room 7 have had a great time beginning to build relationships and getting our room set up and ready for this year. During the first couple of weeks we have been spending time getting to know the students, including their strengths and areas to work and improve on. We have been developing our routines and learning expectations. Our literacy focus is Narratives, and we have begun reading picture story books and recognising the beginning, middle and ending of these. We have started writing about characters and we will continue to learn to use describing words as we learn to write narratives. In math we are exploring place value, addition and subtraction. We are looking forward to sharing more about our learning later in the term.

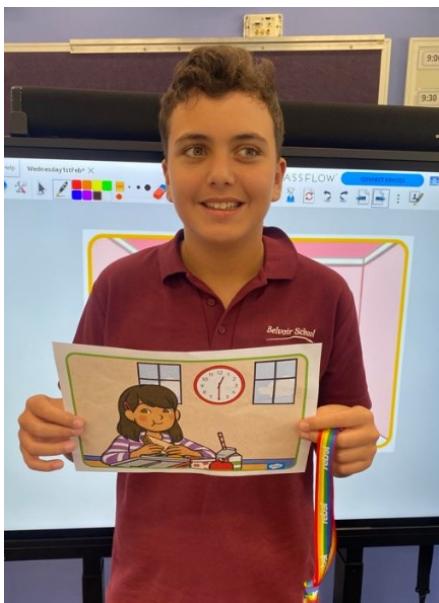
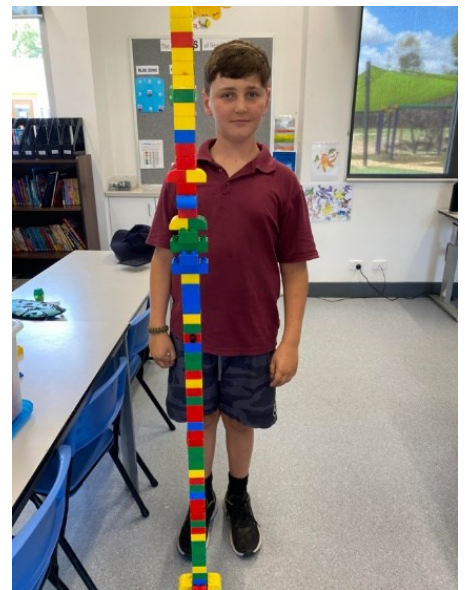


# ROOM 13 NEWS

Josh, Michaeli & Phoebe

It has been a busy start to the year with Room 13 learning about the expectations and routines of their new classroom. We have been working out how to find a 'Smart Spot' to complete our work and have practised completing work independently and as groups. In maths we have started our time topic, which has involved learning about daily routines and the times across the day we complete certain activities.

The class has enjoyed completing challenges during our relaxation sessions, with some fantastic towers being created during our 'Build It' challenge. Some towers even turned out to be taller than the students who made them!





## School Athletics - House Groups

Students, Staff and Parents are put into groups according to their surnames. Each group has a name and color and it's requested that everyone wears clothing the color of the house they are allocated to:

<u>Surnames between</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>House Name</u>
<b>A-D</b>	= <b>Red</b>	<b>Mitta</b>
<b>E-K</b>	= <b>Green</b>	<b>Murray</b>
<b>L-Q</b>	= <b>Blue</b>	<b>Kiewa</b>
<b>R-Z</b>	= <b>Yellow</b>	<b>Hume</b>

### Do you need help applying for the NDIS or Disability Support Pension for your child?

My name is Natalie Ennis and I'm a Support Coordinator at PE Support Services  
(ABN - 38 865 726 149)

I am available to support students and families at Belvoir Special School in applying for the NDIS and the Disability Support Pension.

I have extensive knowledge in these areas as well as being a qualified Psychosocial Recovery Coach, Case Manager & Capacity Building Support Worker

If you would like to contact me you can do so by sending an SMS to  
0497 003 574 or email  
natalieennis99@gmail.com.

I look forward to helping you out.

#### School Vaccination Program: Belvoir Special School

The first round of school vaccinations is being conducted at this school on **Monday 27th February 2023**.

The following vaccines will be offered on this day:

<b>YEAR LEVEL</b>	<b>VACCINES OFFERED</b>
YEAR 7 MALE & FEMALE STUDENTS	GARDASIL®9 (HPV)
YEAR 7 MALE & FEMALE STUDENTS	BOOSTRIX (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough) 1 DOSE ONLY

These vaccinations are funded on the National Immunisation Schedule. Should your child miss out on starting their vaccination course this year they may not be eligible to receive them for free in subsequent years.

Parent information packs were sent home recently.

**ALL relevant sections of the consent card must be completed, signed and returned to the school even if your child is NOT being vaccinated.**

To consent to your child being vaccinated with one or more vaccines, please tick and sign the relevant **YES** sections of the consent card in blue or black pen. If you **DO NOT** wish to have your child vaccinated with one or more vaccines or if your child has **already been vaccinated**, please tick the relevant **NO** section on the consent card and return them to the school by **Thursday 23rd February 2023**. Please return the card to the school even if your child is not being vaccinated.

Please note that, to improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses during Year 7 or 8 (for HPV and dTpa vaccination) and during Year 10 or 11 (for Meningococcal ACWY vaccination) if a consent card was signed and returned in 2022.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by emailing your withdrawal of consent to Council's Immunisation Team on [immunise@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunise@wodonga.vic.gov.au) before the vaccination day.

**Please ensure that your child is wearing their sports uniform or a short sleeve shirt on the day of vaccinations (without too many layers underneath), this will enable a smooth vaccination process.**

If you have any enquiries about the program or your child's vaccinations, please contact Wodonga Council's Immunisation Team on 1800 655 360.

## News bulletin: for school newsletters

### Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine information for parents/guardians

From February 2023, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) dosing schedule for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will change from two doses to a **single dose** for most people.

#### What is the HPV vaccine?

The Gardasil®9 vaccine protects against HPV infection, which is a common viral infection, usually affecting the genitals and spread through sexual contact. The vaccine is most effective when given before exposure to the virus, that is before a person becomes sexually active. More information about HPV and the HPV vaccine can be found [on the Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation). <<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation>>

#### How has the HPV vaccine schedule changed?

From February 2023, the recommended HPV vaccine schedule for most people has **changed from two-doses to a single dose** course using the same Gardasil®9 vaccine. There is no change to the amount of vaccine that is given in the single dose.

The schedule **has not changed for immunocompromised people**, and they may still need to receive three doses of HPV vaccine which are all funded under the NIP.

#### Why was this change made?

The change is based on advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), who have considered and reviewed the latest international clinical evidence. ATAGI support the large volume of clinical findings that a single dose of HPV vaccine provides about the same protection as two doses of HPV vaccine.

#### What do you need to do?

Wodonga council immunisation service will seek your consent for vaccinations delivered at school as usual – if you have already signed a paper based consent form for your Year 7 students in 2023, you will **not** need to complete and sign a new one, as we will use the consent form that you have already returned. Only one dose of HPV vaccine will be provided to your child unless you have indicated that they are immunocompromised. If you have indicated that your child is immunocompromised, Council will contact you about the requirement for your child to receive further doses of HPV vaccine.

If you would like to discuss the change, or clarify any information about the HPV vaccine please contact Wodonga council on 1800 655 360.

#### Further information

[Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation): <<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation>>

# Appendix A

## Fact sheet 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 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** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category according to Ministerial Order 1280. 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.

# 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 (mobile or landline).....

Email .....

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

## Statement

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training.

Yes / No (please circle)

I am an employee of the school council.

Yes / No (please circle)

I am engaged in work at and for the school.

Yes / No (please circle)

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..... / ..... / .....

## 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 and Training 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.*

# Form 4: nomination form for parent member category

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

## Candidate's details

Name.....

Residential address.....

Contact phone (mobile or landline).....

Email.....

## Nominators details

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

## Statement

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Training.

Yes / No (please circle)

Is an employee of the school council.

Yes / No (please circle)

Is engaged in work at and for the school.

Yes / No (please circle)

Name of nominator .....

Signature of nominator ..... Date..... / ..... / .....

## Candidate to complete

I accept the nomination and 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..... / ..... / .....

## 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.

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