

2019

Mackellar Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter — March 8 2019 — Issue 5

Mackellar Primary School

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Public Holiday
Monday March 11, 2019
School Closed

Principal's Message



Dear Mackellar Families,

Mackellar Community... We Need Your Vote!

We are welcoming members of our community to participate in the selection of our School Values. Our School Values Voting Booth is located at the entrance of the school. Voters choose 3 tokens from the token box at the office and place them in 3 of their preferred Values ballot boxes. We are extremely grateful for the number of participants who have taken the time to visit Mackellar this week to vote. Parents, carers, grandparents, school maintenanceworkers, our school crossing supervisor and SSSO staff are highly valued members of our community who have voted so far.



Upcoming Events

- **Mon 11**
Public Holiday- School Closed
- **Wed 13**
Whole School Beach Excursion
- **Thur 14**
Smiling Mind Parent Information Evening-7.00pm-8.00pm
- **Thur 21**
Celebration of Harmony Day Whole School Incur-sion

Mackellar's Special Guest - Natalie Hutchins

Local State Member for Sydneham, Natalie Hutchins, was a special guest at our school assembly this week. Natalie came along to vote for our School Values and speak about the importance of having shared values in a community. We are extremely grateful to Natalie for being a part of this important milestone at our school.

Parent and Carer Information Session

Thank you to everyone who attended our whole school Parent and Carer Information session on Monday evening. The evening was an excellent opportunity for families to become acquainted with programs, processes and dedicated staff that we have at Mackellar Primary School. Teaching teams outlined how we can work together to support children to achieve their very best in all areas of school life. Sausages sizzled throughout the evening whilst children played and teachers and parents relaxed in a warm happy atmosphere. These are moments in our community that we embrace and remember. We are looking forward to various events and evenings for our families this year.

2019 School Terms

- Term 1 - Jan 30 to April 5
- Term 2 - April 23 to Jun 28
- Term 3 - July 15 to Sept 20
- Term 4 - Oct 7 to Dec 18



2019 eSmart Ambassadors

Congratulations to our 2019 eSmart Ambassadors who were recently elected by their peers and teachers. The student leadership role will assist us to continue using safe and responsible behaviours when using technology. Students proudly received their eSmart certificates and leadership badges at Monday's whole school assembly.



Grade 3s

3I - Marco

3M - Phillip

3K - Maddison and Annabella

Grade 4s

4G - Natasha

4K - Abbey

4L - Simran

Grade 5s

5W - Cooper

5G - Tendi

Grade 6s

6A - Arsham

6S - Samuel

6P - Dilan

Kind Regards,

Tanya Lindsay-Clark

Student Wellbeing

Smiling Mind – A Mindfulness Evening for Parents and Carers

Next **Thursday 14th March**, Smiling Mind will visit our school for a special presentation about Mindfulness. Information provided will be around the benefits of Mindfulness and how it can bring balance to our lives.

Topics will include:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Improving attention and focus
- Developing children's ability to manage emotions
- Building resilience
- Improving sleep quality
- Improving student engagement with learning

The impact of mindfulness on children's behaviour

There is NO PAYMENT required for the evening. Please come along as it will be a fantastic evening with free resources provided to everyone who attends.



Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. To celebrate Harmony Day at Mackellar Primary School, it would be appreciated if children are encouraged to wear ORANGE, the Harmony Day colour, on **Thursday the 21st of March.**

To celebrate Harmony Day this year, students will also experience a colourful performance that includes dances from all around the world with a story that promotes values and illustrates and embraces diversity.

The cost of this excursion is \$5.00.

Whole School Beach Excursion Wednesday March 13 Buddy Day

Altona Beach Map 54 H 11 Pier Street Altona



Parents and Careers
WELCOME



eSmart
Smart. Safe. Responsible.



Congratulations

Students of the Week



Zayan, Angela, Manaia, Aiden
 Vincent, Ella, Dylan, Sanderson, Tyler
 Isabella, Nirvana, Materoa, Zayma, Ivan
 Kingsley, Maylee, Maryam, Johnny, Delio

Attendance Awards



Grade 3M- Week 4

Attendance Awards Term 1, 2019



Week 1	 4L & 4G
Week 2	 4L
Week 3	 2B
Week 4	 3M
Week 5	
Week 6	
Week 7	
Week 8	
Week 9	
Week 10	

Congratulations

Mackellar Sports Award



Congratulations to:

Tuong	6S
Alyce	6A
Kaan	6P
Helena	5W
Tendi	5G

School Council

Next week we will be calling for nominations for Parent members of School Council.

School Councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The school council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. I encourage interested parents and community members to contact me for further information.

What is a school council?

- All government schools in Victoria have a school council (except for the Distance Education Centre, Victoria).
- Each school council is a legal entity in its own right.
- School council is the group of people who are given the power to set the key directions for the school. This means that school council can directly influence the quality of education that a school provides to its students.
- School council endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents including the School Strategic Plan, the school budget and the Annual Report to the School Community.
- School council therefore makes sure that the school is running effectively in terms of how it spends its money and the guidelines it makes for how the school is to work.
- The school council is accountable to the Minister for Education in respect to how it fulfils its functions.

Nomination forms are available at the office.

School Council Elections

• 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 (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed 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. Its members are appointed 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 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 vote in the 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 seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council or encouraging 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.

DET 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 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.

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.

Notice of election and call for nominations : An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Mackellar Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged at the office by **4pm on 15/03/2019** The ballot will close at 4 pm on **20/03/2019**. 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:
- 3 Parent (2 year) Terms
- 1 DET Member (2year) Term