Principal’s Message

School Council Elections

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.

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Mackellar Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged at the office by 4pm on Friday 24th February, 2017.

The ballot will close at 4pm on Friday 3rd March, 2017.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.
Child Safe Standards

Mackellar Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children are safe and protected from any form of child abuse. **We have zero tolerance of child abuse**, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities if we are concerned about a child’s safety, which we follow rigorously.

This year, the Victorian Government introduced the Child Safe Standards, which are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, we have developed:

- Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
- A child safe policy and statement of commitment to child safety
- A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse, and
- Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

Policies related to the Child Safe Standards may be found our school website in the near future. For further information, please refer to [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/)

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SUN SAFETY FOR ALL STUDENTS

The SunSmart Policy for Mackellar Primary School states that all children should be wearing a hat during outdoor play for Term 1 and Term 4. If a child isn’t wearing a hat during these times, there is ‘no hat, no play’ and he/she is expected to stay safely under our shaded areas.

Please ensure your child has a hat at all times so as he/she is not missing out on play time outdoors with their peers.

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Parent & Carer Teacher Meetings— Grades P-6

**Tuesday 21st February**

Mackellar teachers are looking forward to this Tuesday when they meet their students’ parents and carers. This meeting will provide an opportunity for you to share and exchange information regarding your child as well as your child’s educational program for 2017, such as homework, classroom expectations and approaches to teaching and learning.

Specialist teachers and support staff will also be available for you to meet with, should you like to do so. Please contact Leanne Keane if you require a meeting with a specialist or support staff member.

Meeting times will be available between 2:40pm and 7:30pm. Meetings will be for 10 mins. If you require a longer time, you may need to make an alternative time to meet.

To make a time for your interview you will need to book through the School Interviews Online booking system, [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) If you do not have access to a computer, please see your child’s classroom teacher and they will assist you to make a booking. The Online booking system allows you to book for all children at the one time.

If you are unable to attend at all on the day, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange an alternative time.
Students of the Week

William Le, Manaia Schirmer, Teona Dimitrijevska, Camila Leon, Annalise Vella
Aarnan Bhatt, Mia Templeton, James Stevens, Tanya Rowan, Sophia Tran, Quynh-Vy Ho,
Phillip Stevoski, Joanna Wen

6.2.17
Parents and Guardians

Just a quick reminder that all students from Prep to Six require an art smock for Visual Arts. Shop bought art smocks or an old shirt or tee-shirt several sizes too big which can be worn comfortably over your child’s uniform are sufficient. The art smock is to protect the school uniform from accidental spills which can occur during art classes when the students are busy being creative.

Please ensure that all art smocks are marked with your child’s first and surname and with the name of their grade for 2017. Art smocks can be handed to the class teacher for your convenience, or to me in the art room.

Best Wishes
Judy Tanner
Visual Arts Specialist.
Students of the Week

Trinity Mai, Ryan Tha-Khin, Stefan Elez, Henry Simpson, Daniel Lim Elizabeth Bouzinis, Melda Temurci, Desiree Viliamu, Vincent Truong, Maddison Vunderl, Michelle Sem, Leonel Pereira, Johnathon Marasco, Milan Vujatovic, Feven Mersha, Angelina Truong, Evan Luu, Christian Badry, Croydon Nguyen, Materoa Toko, Donel Lay, Manvir Chahal, & Kamal Pothireddy

13.2.17
SUNSMART

The SunSmart Policy for Mackellar Primary School states that all children should be wearing a hat during outdoor play for Term 1 and Term 4. If a child isn’t wearing a hat during these times, there is ‘no hat, no play’ and he/she is expected to stay safely under our shaded areas. Please ensure your child has a hat at all times so as he/she is not missing out on play time outdoors with their peers.

For further information, please refer to the following links:
http://www.sunsmart.com.au

2017 Breakfast Program at Mackellar Primary School

The School Breakfast Clubs program is an initiative of the Victorian Government in partnership with Foodbank Victoria. The program delivers healthy breakfast foods to many primary schools across Victoria and our school is one of them.

Breakfast Club enables children to:

- enjoy a nutritious breakfast
- engage and participate fully in all the educational and social opportunities throughout the day
- get a kick-start to the day by being refueled with energy and nutrients

(the previous meal is typically 8 to 10 hours before waking)

If your children aren’t eating breakfast at home, they are very welcome to come along to Mackellar’s Breakfast Club, where they will be happily served with a smile.

WHEN: Monday to Friday (every morning)
TIME: 8.45am to 8.55am
LOCATION: At the Before & After School Program building.