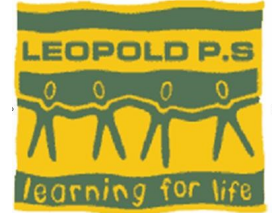


LEOPOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL
"The More You Know The More You Grow"
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Principal - Stuart Bott
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NEWSLETTER NO.2 February 28th 2019



March

Tues 5th
pancake day 8.00am

Wed 6th
Gr 6 open class 2.45pm

Thurs 7th
Gr 3 hands on science incursion

Fr 8th
Gr 3 hands on science incursion

Mon 11th
LABOR DAY
No School

Thurs 14th
School Photos

Tues 19th
CURRICULUM DAY
No School

Wed 20th
Gr 4 Smart Saving/maths incursion
Gr 1 open class 2.45pm
Gr 2 Frizzles incursion

Thurs 21st
Gr 5 Bank/maths incursion

Fri 22nd
Gr 5/6 summer Lightning Prem
Gr 2 open class 2.45pm

Tues 26th
Gr 5 coding/robot incursion

Wed 27th
Prep open class 9am-10am

Thurs 28th
Gr 5 open class

April

Mon 1st
Gr 4 Earth Ed incursion

Tues 2nd
Gr 4 Earth Ed incursion

Wed 3rd
Gr 5 Earth Ed incursion

Fri 5th
END OF TERM
School finishes 2.35pm



"The More You Know, The More You Grow"

LEOPOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL Council Elections 2019

Nominations are now open for parent and teacher vacancies on our School Council. If you are an enthusiastic parent or staff member interested in getting more involved and having a say in what our school is doing, or know someone who is, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for people who are committed to improving the educational outcomes for all our students.

Effective councils have a broad range of experience, skills and expertise. Face-to-face and online training is also available to help councillors develop the skills and knowledge for the job. Parents find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Nominations close on Thursday 7th March 2019 and forms are available from the office.

School Councils play a vital role in the educational opportunities and outcomes of all students at the school. In essence, the role of School Council is one of setting the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight (not management) of the school's operation. I would like our parents and staff to consider nominating for Leopold Primary School Council in 2019. Nomination forms for School Council will be available to collect from the office in our school, from today, and close on Thursday 7th March 2019. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th March 2019 at 6:30pm. Please continue reading below for further information.



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 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 college 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 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.
- **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.

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 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
- 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?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

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. Collect a nomination form from the office.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school.

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 following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, 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 if you are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections (if this occurs)
- Contact the Principal for further information.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member (2 years)	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021	4
DET employee member (2 Years)	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021	2
Parent member (1 years)	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020	1
DET employee member (1 Year)	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020	
Community member (Students/Community) (1 Year)	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020	

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAYS

In Victoria and at Leopold Primary School, we achieve excellence by consistently focusing on improving the achievements of learners, whether it is through improving the quality of educational services or changing the way we teach.



The most important thing we can do to improve student outcomes is to develop and improve the skills of our teachers.

The Victorian Government and at Leopold Primary School we will continue to provide opportunities to develop professional, passionate staff and equip them with the right knowledge and skills to meet the needs of their students.

To ensure we support the learning and development of not only our students, but our staff too; we are committed to providing professional development opportunities for our workforce.

Staff will spend four days per year further developing their skills in areas that are aligned to the school priorities. Students will directly benefit from these improvements in their daily learning.

Throughout 2019 staff will be taking time to improve their delivery of teaching and learning through the four professional practice days they have been allocated.

The professional practice days are part of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017. Each full time teacher is entitled to one day per term (four days per year), to focus on the improved delivery of high quality teaching and learning. At Leopold Primary School we are going to start including our support staff so they also gain the benefits of such an initiative.



We know children sometimes find it challenging when their teacher is away from the classroom. Equally, it's important that staff take the time to focus on improving their professional practice because their learning directly impacts on your child's learning experience and that there is a learning plan in place to ensure that your child's education continues as usual.

We are scheduling the days ahead of time and have planned the day so that there is minimal impact.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RETURNING RESOURCES



Resources such as books, sporting equipment and laptops are very important to support the learning outcomes for all students. It has come to our attention that there are many resources that are missing from the school, particularly reading and library books. These books could be in various spots around the house and it would be greatly appreciated if everyone could return these resources to school as soon as you can. Thank you for your support in returning these valuable resources.

Stuart Bott

Principal



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