

28^h January, 2021

Principal's Message

Term 1 Issue 1

Dear Parents,

This is a very brief newsletter to welcome you all back to Coatesville Primary School for the start of the 2021 school year. I especially wish all new families and staff a most wonderful year ahead.

Unfortunately I also have to share some sad news. CPS teacher Kat Berecic has been diagnosed with cancer. Kat will not be teaching Prep this year and will be focussing on treatment and recovery with the support of her family, friends and colleagues. Kat has expressed that if previous or current parents have her contact details and want to reach out that she welcomes this. We wish Kat the very best as she embarks on her treatment and recovery. Thank you to Efie Fattore who has stepped in to take PKB for the start of the year whilst we find a replacement teacher.

The main purpose of this newsletter is to officially call for nominations from parents to fill 3 parent vacancies on School Council. The term of office is 2 years. We are also looking for parents to join our School Council sub committees. More information about sub committees is included on the last page of this newsletter.

I have attached:

1. The Notice of School Council Election and Call for Nominations (Schedule 3A)
2. Information for parents
3. Election Process and Timetable
4. Schedule 5B – Nomination form parent member category (if you would like to nominate another parent)
5. Schedule 5A– Self-nomination form parent member category (if you would like to nominate yourself)

In order for School Council to be effective we need parents who can commit themselves to a monthly 2 hour meeting from 6.00-8.00pm, usually held on the last Tuesday of the month. A member of School Council must also commit to a 1 hour Sub Committee meeting, usually held on the first Tuesday of the month. Member absences from these meetings make the running of School Council difficult. So if you have the time we would love you to contact us for further information and/or fill in a nomination form by the due date. School Council is a great place to make a valuable contribution to your child's education.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via the office.

We will publish a more detailed newsletter next Wednesday.

Michael Jones- Principal



Diary Dates

2021

FEB

- 1 Swimming Carnival
- 2 Prep Parent Info Night
- 8 Teacher Parent Interviews
- 9 Teacher Parent Interviews
- 8-19 Grade 3&4 Swimming

Schedule 3A

Notice of School Council Elections & Call for Nominations

Thursday 28th January 2021

A call for nominations for the School Council of Coatesville Primary School is being conducted.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by **4pm on Tuesday 2nd February**
Be sure to obtain the correct category of nomination form.

A list of Candidates and nominators will be posted at the office on **Wednesday 3rd February**

*If there are more nominations than vacancies an Election will be held

Ballot papers will be sent home on **Friday 5th February**

The ballot will close at 4pm on **Friday 12th 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:

<u>Membership category</u>	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021	3
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021	0

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 at the school office.

Michael Jones - Principal

School Council Elections 2021—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 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 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 (Department of Education & Training) 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 co-opted 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 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.

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. 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.

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 elections.

Contact the Principal, Michael Jones on 9570 1652 for further information.