FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

‘WELCOME BACK AFTERNOON’

Families are reminded that we are having a Welcome Back Afternoon on Monday after school (13th February). Classrooms will be open so that students can show their families around and talk about how their classroom operates. A light afternoon tea will be offered to adults to encourage families to mingle with each other and the staff. The purpose of this afternoon is to provide everyone with the opportunity to have a look around and meet other members of the Officer Community. We hope to see you all!

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Our School Council Constitution allows for a total of ten representatives with five of this number being elected parent members, three being elected DET members and two further members being Community Members who are co-opted by the School Council.

Each member of School Council is elected for a two year term with terms for members finishing in alternate years. This year we have two Parent Member positions and one Staff Member position open for election.

A further two Community Member position will also be available for co-opted members following the election process. One of these will be for two years and the second is a casual vacancy for one year created by the resignation of Kerryn Knight.

School Council Members whose terms are up are:
Parents: Glenn Lyons, a vacant parent position.
Staff: Paula Spierings
Co-opted Members: Sarah Barton

The timeline for the OPS School Council election process is as follows:

Friday 10th February  
Notice of elections and call for nominations.

Friday 17th February  
Close of Nominations

Monday 20th February
List of candidates and nominators posted

Monday 27th February
Prepare ballot papers and distribute (if required)

Monday 6th March
Close of ballot
Tuesday 7th March  Declaration of poll
Wednesday 15th March  Council Meeting to co-opt Community Members
Wednesday 15th March  First meeting of new School Council

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for School Council, nomination forms are available from the School Administration and must be returned to the school by 4:00pm on Friday 17th February.

Attached to this newsletter you will find further information about the role of the School Council and how you can become involved. If you have further questions please contact me at the school.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS
From time to time teachers request parent support for a range of school activities and in most instances, parents are keen to help.

In line with Child Safe practices, School Council requires that all volunteers directly involved in school camps, excursions, sleep-overs, assisting with the swimming program, transport of students without staff members present, extra-curricular activities such as school sporting teams etc all have Working with Children Checks.

Parents who volunteer in relation to an activity in which his or her child ordinarily participates under the direct supervision of the teacher (e.g. classroom reading) are exempt. However, if the same parent volunteers in a class or activity that his or her child does not ordinarily participate in, then a check is required.

Working with Children checks for volunteers are issued free of charge and can be applied for online. For further information parents can access the Working With Children Check website at: http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/

If you are interested in volunteering to help us at school I suggest that you organise a Working With Children Check ahead of time so that you can respond to our requests and be considered as a helper for some of these activities.

Enjoy the warm weekend!

Regards

Lynne Brenner
Principal
Parents & Friends News

This week we held our 1st Parents & Friends Meeting for the year. It was great to see so many new faces come along and learn more about what the Parents & Friends Committee is all about.

This year we have set a goal to raise $15,000. All funds we raise this year together with the funds raised from last year are being put towards the replacement of playground equipment. To help us achieve this figure we have some exciting activities planned for the year.

Term 1 Activities
Bunnings BBQ on Saturday 18th March
Treasure Hunt day on Sunday 19th March
Easter Raffle
Students morning tea, Hot Cross Buns & flavoured milk on Wednesday 29th March
GWS Car Raffle - this will also run into term 2.

The Parents & Friends Committee will also be running a Trivia Night, Pie Drive, Chocolate/Biscuit drive, and a Mini Fete this year. Of course our tradition of Mothers Day Stall, Fathers Day Stall, School Disco, Footy lunch day and other special lunch days will also be held.

If you weren’t able to make the meeting, but would like to get involved in our activities, please come and see me.

Have a great weekend

Melissa Ball
Parents & Friends President

WANTED

Officer Primary School are needing 100’s of Film Canisters, Mint Tins and little 'Treasures' (plastic toys, trinkets, curiosities, party favours, beads, jewels and alike) please keep them aside for us and send into school, there will be a large bin/box in reception for these items to be placed. Keep collecting until mid March. TIA

BREAKFAST CLUB
Starting on Tuesday morning 14th February

Thanks to the Foodbank School Program we have breakfast club at school every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8.30am.

To participate in this parents need to register their child/children in the breakfast club register in the office on the front desk.

There is a limit of 20 places per session so make sure you get in early.

Please only sign your child/children in if they are going to make the day, other children miss out often because lots of children don’t turn up. Unfortunately due to limited space we can only accommodate 20.
BOOKCLUB

Bookclub is due into the office 16th February 3.30pm.
Or alternatively you can process your order through LOOP via the scholastic website

SUBWAY LUNCHES

We have subway lunches delivered to school every second Wednesday.
If you would like your child to participate, envelopes are available from the office to fill out and return to the office before 9.00am on the Subway day.
The cost is $6.50 for a six inch with a water or fruit box and $5.50 for a mini junior with a water or fruit box.

Our next Subway lunch is Wednesday 22nd February. Please remember to have orders into the office by 9.00am
SCHEDULE 4: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

OFFICER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on

17 / 02 / 2017 (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on

6 / 03 / 2017 (insert date and year)

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Lynne Brenner
Principal
OFFICER PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Council Election 2017 - 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 key directions of a school within statewide 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?

For most school councils, 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 engaged in work at the school. At Officer Primary School the Parent Category has five members.

- 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. At Officer Primary School the DET category has three members.

- An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. At Officer Primary School we two 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 of Election 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.

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 in the mail 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 and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

If you would like further information about School Council please feel free to approach me with your questions.

Lynne Brenner
Principal
What a fabulous week we have had; this week saw the start of the Public Speaking Program for the year 5 and 6 students. Thank you to our very brave students who presented speeches during the first session and who all spoke very well.

This week we had the first round of Interschool Sport where we played BUPS at home. Everyone played very well and represented OPS with pride.

In CAFÉ, the students have been investigating the different between literal and inferential information and improving our expression through the use of punctuation. In writing we have finished our school holiday recounts and have been looking at how to create an interesting setting when writing narratives. In Maths the students have been focusing on Place Value.

Hi everyone! On Monday we have our Welcome Back afternoon tea starting at 3.15pm. It would be lovely if you could spare a little bit of time after school to have a snack, a cuppa, see your child’s classroom and have a chat with the staff. Next week we will be starting our maths groups which will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The focus of maths for the next three weeks will be place value. The children will be writing narratives and studying synonyms. Our grade 4s made us very proud at interschool sport on Friday. Next week they are playing against John Henry Primary School and we wish them good luck. If you have not already returned Parent/Teacher booking forms please do so by Tuesday morning at the latest as staff will meet that afternoon to slot in appointments.

Have a great week!
Welcome Back Afternoon Tea!
On Monday the 13th of February the staff will be hosting a welcome back afternoon tea from 3.30 to 5pm. All parents, students and family members are welcome to come along to meet the school staff, explore the school and eat some delicious food!

Parent Teacher Interviews
Please return the pink Parent Teacher Interview form ASAP to ensure you don’t miss out on an opportunity to discuss your child with their teacher. Prep parents do not need to book a Parent Teacher Interview as this takes place after the Prep Assessment Interviews on Wednesdays.

Parent Consent Forms
Please make sure you return the blue parent consent forms ASAP.

Literacy
We are focusing on revising the Beanie Baby reading strategies. The Preps are have begun their work in Jolly Phonics, which includes correct formation of letters. In writing, the Grade 1/2 students are focusing on writing personal narratives.

Maths
Preps are revising numbers to 10 and Grade 1 and 2s are revising place value of numbers to 1000

Reminders
Prep Interviews - Please sign up for an appointment time with Bec Luisa or Julian as times are filling up fast.
Zoopee-Doopers - This is a fundraiser for the Year six children. They are on sale on Tuesdays and Thursday. Cost $10. Start date TBA
Breakfast Club - This will begin on the 14th of February on Tuesday and Thursday 8.30 a.m. – 8.50 a.m. – Parents need to write their child’s name into the booking folder which is located in the office.
Refer a family member or friend to Nicola at Barry Plant Pakenham. Hand in your voucher and once the property is SOLD I will send you a $250 Westfield or Bunnings Voucher.

Your Name  Person Referred  Contact No.

Nicola Parreira
0407 921 332
nparreira@barryplant.com.au

DANCING, SINGING, ACTING, GYMNASTICS, MARCHING & MORE!

Lilypond House, Duncan Drive
PAKENHAM

Tinies (7 & under) - Saturday 9:00-10:30am
Subbies (10 & under) - Saturday 10:45-12:45pm
Juniors (13 & under) - Tuesday 5:00-7:30pm
Inters (17 & under) - Tuesday 5:00-8:00pm
Seniors (17 & over) - Wednesday 7:00-9:30pm
Masters (26 & over) - Wednesday 7:00-9:00pm

www.ariacalisthenics.com
Do You Want to Study?

Have you suffered from anxiety or depression?
Did you leave school before Yr12? 21 and under?
Haven’t Completed any other Qualifications?
Need help looking for and gaining Study or Work?

Call 0410024384 or
Email help@jobco.com.au

JobCo can offer advice and assistance so you can achieve education and employment goals you set for your future
Are you a Single Parent?

Are you the Principal Carer?

Have you suffered from anxiety or depression?

Need help looking for and gaining Study or Work?

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