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Inside this issue:

2018 Information	2
School Council Elections	4
Community & School Event News	6
Election Form	9
Uniform Shop Order Forms	10



**AFTER
SCHOOL CARE
COMMUNICATION
LINE**
0447 085 696

**Bacchus Marsh
Coaches
STUDENT
BUS TRANSPORT
COMMUNICATION
LINE**
1800 660 530



Melton Specialist School
@meltonspecialistschool.5162

Edition 1 2018: 9th February

A Message from the Principal

—WELCOME—
BACK TO SCHOOL

WELCOME TO 2018

First of all a great big welcome to all of our new families, students and staff. Welcome back to all our returning students, their families and our staff.

This term we welcomed 12 Preps into the school. I have really enjoyed watching these little people begin on their journey towards independence with us here. We also welcome Denise as a classroom teacher, as well as Phil and Annette as our Learning Specialists. We have had to make some changes to our original staff plan due to changes over the holidays.

The year has started positively for most students. Our staff are in the process of assessing the students academic and social skills as well as looking at different ways to engage your children. Whilst these assessments are undertaken, Leaders will also be visiting rooms and talking with students and teachers about the class groups. We ask for your patience here as we like to wait at least 6 weeks, unless there are safety issues, to allow the students to settle rather than reacting immediately. This allows for anxieties related to change to reduce before making changes. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any feedback.

School Goals

This year we begin the work of achieving our four year plan goals. We are working towards:

- Creating a learning community focused on student learning growth; evidence –based instruction and teaching excellence
- Developing a learning program resulting in improved outcomes for every student as they progress through the school
- Building a school community that is inclusive of parent, student and teacher partnerships underpinning a safe and collaborative climate

I look forward to keeping you up to date with our progress towards those goals.

School Building Project

As I'm sure most of you have noticed, we have relocated our Reception and Administration areas. Reception is currently in the BER building. The access is on the left hand side of the courtyard where visitors used to enter. We are working to improve signage and reduce confusion. The Admin Team, Allied Health Team and the Leadership Team are all located in this building and we have two Portable buildings installed at the back of the school to replace these classrooms. Demolition of our old Admin and Allied Health area is due to start in approximately 2 weeks. This will mean more changes to parent pick up and drop off point as well as how we unload the School Buses safely. I will keep you informed of this as we receive updated advice from builders and our Health and Safety Team.

Best Wishes—Brooke

Dates to Remember

Wednesday	14th February	Uniform Shop Open 3:00 to 4:30pm Preps do not attend Parent's Club (PCCC) Committee Meeting 9:15am
Friday	16th February	Book Club Orders Due
Wednesday	21st February	Uniform Shop Open 3:00 to 4:30pm School Council Meeting 6pm Preps do not attend Mid Term Assembly 2:30pm
Friday	23rd February	School Captain and Student Representative Council Presentations
Wednesday	28th February	Uniform Shop Open 3:00 to 4:30pm Preps do not attend

Bus Transport Forms, Processes & News

We will be sending home information next week requesting missing Applications for Transport Assistance Forms and Student Travel Plans. These forms need to be returned to the Student Transport Administrator by Friday 16th February if you wish to continue to travel on the Department of Education's Student with Disabilities Transport Program bus service. If you have not returned your form by this date you will have to provide your own transport for your child until the process has been completed.

During Term 1 we will be conducting Travel Education Framework competency and suitability assessments for your child in order to meet compliance requirements with Departmental policies. This may require a family support meeting with the Student Transport Administrator and adjustments to your child's current travel plan or travel arrangements.

Families who have returned application forms will be notified of the application's outcome after all the correct processes have been completed. This may take up to two to three weeks to complete.

Relevant forms are available from the Administration office and on our website. The 'Conditions of Travel' are also available from these places so you can inform yourself of the responsibilities of all parties who use this program.

Bus routes, times and pick up points are all currently under review and we thank families for their patience with changes and adjustments. If there are any concerns please contact studenttransport@meltonss.vic.edu.au or Breeanna on 97434966.

Uniform Shop Information

We have been looking forward to updating families about the new school uniform and we thank everyone for their patience. At the last school council meeting the price list and supplier were approved. Uniform samples have been ordered to set up our new Uniform Shop so your child is able to try on the pieces before buying.

The Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesdays 3.00—4.30pm every week in Term 1. It will also be open all day on SSG Day (Student Free) on Thursday 29th March.

Payment options will be explained at the time of purchase. We do not have Eftpos facilities at the moment so please bring **CASH** if you wish to pay on the day. We will not order any uniform pieces until payment for goods has been received in full.

If you need assistance with purchasing uniforms for your child, you may be able to access the State Schools Relief program. There is information coming home shortly about the Year 7 and Prep uniform packages. An order form is attached to this newsletter.

We will also have the option of purchasing a 'Class of 2018' tops for our Grade 6 students and Year 12 students. Order forms are being sent home shortly and are due back with full payment by Friday March 9th 2018.

Please be patient with the uniform shop for the first few weeks. We have had an overwhelming amount of enquiries, so it may be a very busy time. We are very excited that everyone is looking forward to improving school pride and is eager to wear the new school uniform!!

The shop closes at 4.30pm SHARP so please plan your visit and purchases accordingly.

Secondary School Vaccinations

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 and 10 students. These vaccines provide protection against:

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) – one dose for year 7 students

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – two doses for year 7 students

Meningococcal A,C,W,Y – one dose for year 10 students

Parents/guardians of year 7 and 10 students should look out for the vaccine consent card booklet coming home from school with your child. You need to read the information, complete and return the card regardless of whether your child is being vaccinated at school.

The Melton City Council immunisation service may contact you about the Secondary School Vaccine Program. Schools are authorised to provide basic parent/guardian contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school by 28 February 2018 if you do not want your contact details given to the Melton City Council immunisation service.

To learn more about the Secondary School Vaccine Program, the vaccines, the diseases they protect against, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination, go to betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Additionally, the Commonwealth government is funding vaccinations for all children under 20 years who missed scheduled vaccines. If students have missed vaccines, either in childhood or adolescence, and require catch-up vaccines, they should speak with their immunisation provider. (ie. local council or GP).

Medical & Health Care Needs Forms Reminder

Recently you would have received Medical and Health Care Needs Forms for you to fill out and return. It is essential that these are returned as soon as possible so we can administer the appropriate medications correctly and support your child's needs.

Copies of the policies relating to the giving of Medication at school and Student Health Care Needs can be located on our website and are available from the Administration office.

ADVANCE Counselling Service News

We would like to update our families who have been accessing our in school psychological service.

Sarah from the ADVANCE Counselling Program will not be returning to our school in 2018. The program will not be running in 2018 and this will be reviewed towards the end of 2018 for the 2019 school year.

Families do however have access to our school psychologist, Daniel Torpy. If you need support from our Allied Health Team, please let your child's teacher know and they will make an in-house referral.

Book Club Orders 2018

Book Club catalogues will be sent home to families during the year. Please download the LOOP App or visit the website to create an account. All orders need to be processed online by families.

This months orders are due by Friday 16th February.

Every Book Club order you place helps to raise funds towards the purchase of books for our new school Library. The new Library will be built during the first stage of the school refurbishment project in 2018!! Happy reading everyone....

 SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:

www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



2018 School Council Elections

We are calling for all interested persons to become involved in our School Council in the vacant positions that are available in this year's nomination period.

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 engaged in work 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 – 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.

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 is calling for nominations in this letter. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March each year.

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 or Administration Office within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt 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 or Community Engagement Officer for further information.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Melton Specialist School.

Nominations forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by
4.00pm on **Tuesday 20th of March 2018**.

The ballot will close at 4.00pm on **Tuesday 5th of March 2018**.

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:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM of OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	<i>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll 2019</i>	1
Parent member	<i>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll 2020</i>	3
DET employee member	<i>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll 2020</i>	1

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.

Brooke Briody
PRINCIPAL

Please find the appropriate forms attached to the back of this newsletter if you wish to nominate yourself or someone else. Please return to the Administration Office before

Friendly Reminders

School Absences

If your child is sick or not going to be at school for the day, please call the school and leave a message.

- Ring 9743 4966
- Select option to leave a message
- Include your child's name, classroom teacher, date of absence and reason for absence

Upon return to school it is necessary to have a note in the Communication Diary regarding the absence and a medical certificate if appropriate.

Medication

Under the guidelines of the Department of Education (DET) Prescription and Non Prescription medications including eye drops, creams etc will only be administered with a **signed and completed Medication Administration Form**. These forms are available from the office or your child's teacher.

Medication **MUST** be supplied in it's **original packaging with a chemist's label** Children are not permitted to administer any medications themselves, keep medicine in their possession or have it mixed with food.

Medication **MUST NOT** be transported to school in your child's bag via the bus. Medication must be handed to the Teacher or Office Staff.



Blue Light

MELTON BLUE LIGHT

FRIDAY 16TH FEB

BEACH PARTY THEME!

6-8PM | PRIMARY AGE

\$5 ENTRY AT THE DOOR | NO BACK PACKS NO PASS OUTS

THE GAP ON GRAHAM, 5 GRAHAM ST, MELTON

CHILDREN TO BE DROPPED OFF & COLLECTED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT
 STEPHEN.TURNER@POLICE.VIC.GOV.AU
 OR THEGAPONGRAHAM@GMAIL.COM

MELTON BLUE LIGHT
 ASK YOUR PARENTS TO LIKE THE PAGE IF YOU ARE UNDER 13

BLUELIGHT_VIC

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS



Child minding provided for a small fee. Contact us to find out more.

A FREE parenting program full of handy hints and tips to improve communication and understanding between you and your child.

When: Tuesday mornings from
13 February —20 March, 2018

Where: Darley Early Years Hub
182 Halletts Way, Darley

Time: 9.45am – 12.00pm

* Child minding can be provided for a small fee

Using mindfulness and reflection, parents will:


- Learn about their own parenting style and how it can be more effective;
- Understand how children communicate AND what they're really trying to tell you.
- Discover the kind of parent you'd like to be.
- Learn how to develop emotional confidence in your child.
- Learn about your child's developmental stages

To register call Debbie Lee or Angela Clark on:
 (03)8746 0500 or debbie.lee@ccam.org.au angela.clarke@ccam.org.au



MacKillop Family Services

Strengthening families and communities
www.ccam.org.au



FREE EVENT WALK WITH HER

PRESENTED BY WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN

SUNDAY, 4 MARCH 2018
 10AM REGISTRATION, WALK STARTS AT 11AM
 HANNAH WATTS PARK, HIGH STREET, MELTON

LET'S WALK TOGETHER TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE RESPECTFUL AND EQUAL COMMUNITY

1 in 3 women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Help change the story and show your support for a safer, more respectful and equal community with the Walk With Her event. Nominate your number of laps for the walk around Hannah Watts Park.

Led by the Women Making it Happen, supported by Djerriwarrh Health Service (DjHS). DjHS is committed to being a workforce and community leader in the prevention of violence against women. We believe it is everyone's role to challenge attitudes, beliefs and cultures that support violence.

REGISTRATIONS:
<https://healthpromotion.eventsart.com> OR on the day from 10am.

For support and information regarding family violence phone 1800 737 732

For more information contact Bernadette:
bernadette@djhs.org.au | 8746 1508

[healthpromotionatdjhs](https://www.facebook.com/healthpromotionatdjhs)

djerriwarrh health services
 health hospital community
 bacchus marsh - melton - caroline springs

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