School Council Elections – Information for Parents (full information attached)

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.

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.

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.

Newsletter Content
To help ensure that our newsletter is relevant and providing the appropriate information to our community, I am seeking feedback from our school community. I would like parents and students to let me know what type of information or format would be the most valuable to them. The weekly newsletter aims to keep our community informed about school events, important dates, student activities etc. However I want to know what our parents and students consider to be informative,
interesting and valuable to them. I have attached a suggestion form which can be completed and sent to the office. Thank you for your assistance.

Parent/Teacher Night
Thank you to all of the parents/families who attended our Parent/Teacher evening on Thursday. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teacher, and for the classroom teacher to meet the families. Thank you also to all of the staff for their time and commitment to ensuring that our parents and students settle into the new school year.

School Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>School Commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 -11.00</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.30</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 – 1.45</td>
<td>Students eat their lunch (extra time provided for Preps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45 -2.15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15 -3.15</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>School Finishes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collecting your child early
If you are collecting your child early they need to be signed out at the office before they are collected from the classroom. The parent/guardian will be given an “Early Leavers Notice” which must be given to the classroom teacher.

Preps 2016 – Open Night 12th March (5.00 – 6.30)
On Thursday 12 March we will be having an Open Night for prospective 2016 Prep parents.

Parent Contacts
It is vital we have up to date phone numbers for families. In emergency situations and if your child is sick, it is crucial we are able to contact you easily and quickly. If you have changed your phone number or emergency contacts, please let the office know so we can update your details.

Alexandra Camp Years 4-6
25th – 27th November, 2015
Places are filling fast for the camp. If you would like your child to attend the camp in November, we require a deposit of $75 to be paid by Friday 6th March. Please note we cannot secure a place for your child without the deposit.

School Photos
School photos will be taken on Tuesday 10th March. All students must be in correct school uniform. Envelopes showing prices and
package options will be sent home with each student, in a few weeks. If there are two or more students from the same family at Lyndale Greens Primary School, the parents may wish to also have a family photo taken. Family photo envelopes will be available from the office. The completed envelopes and correct money must be returned to school on Photo Day Tuesday 10th March.

*Please note there will be no change available at the school office.*

**Lunch Orders**

Once a week students are able to order a Subway Lunch. Orders must be returned on Thursday for lunch on Friday. For $6.00 you can choose a Six Inch Sub (with your choice of meat, salad and sauce), an apple or a cookie and a drink of juice or water. An order envelope will be available from the teacher or the office each week and set out below are the menu options.

If you wish to place an order, fill in the order envelope and return to the school on **Thursday by 10am** together with $6.00 (Please enclose correct money).

*Please Note: Subway lunch orders are a set menu meal offer. No variations can be accepted.*

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**Community Announcement**

**NORTH DANDENONG JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

Lois Twohig Reserve, Carlton Road, Dandenong North
Registration Day – Sausage Sizzle – Meet the Coaches Saturday 21st February, 2015 10am to 12pm

For further information, Please contact the Registrar
Megan LeBusque E: registrar.ndfc@gmail.com

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**LYNDALE UNITED SOCCER CLUB**

Registration Day 2015
All ages welcome (U6-U18s girls and Boys)

**JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED FOR SEASON 2015 SAUSAGE SIZZLE, GAMES AND MORE!!**

Where: Lyndale Secondary College
Cnr Halton & Gladstone Roads, Dandenong North (Soccer Pitch)

When: Saturday 28th of February
Time: 10am to 12pm

Further Details PH: Peter 0431 250 568 or Charlie 0425 728 435

Junior fees:
5-8 YO $200
9-11 YO $250
12-18 YO $400
Parent Suggestion about Newsletter Content

(please return to the office)

a) Information I would like to see on a weekly basis
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b) Information I would like to occasionally
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c) Information I consider valuable or important to be included.
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Lyndale Greens Primary School is now calling for nominations from parents to fill the following vacancies.

- **3 Parent Vacancies**

Please see information below about School Council Election.

**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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD 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. DEECD 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.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

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.

If you are interested in nominating for School Council, please collect a Nomination Form from the office.

Regards,

Victoria Golding
Principal
Lyndale Greens Primary School