Coming Up..

Wednesday 25th February  Parent Information Exchange Evening  03 9484 3949
Monday 9th March  Labour Day Public Holiday  03 9480 5930
Sunday 15th March  Working Bee  wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Saturday 21st March  WSPS Fete  www.walesstps.vic.edu.au

WALES STREET NEWS
February 19 2015

From the Principal

Thank you

Thank you to the Wales Street School Community for their overwhelmingly warm welcome over the past couple of weeks. I had the chance to catch up face to face with a number of parents at the morning tea a couple of weeks ago. What I gleaned from my conversations was that Wales Street has a vibrant, committed and engaged group of parents and friends who want to work with the school staff to see that our students reach their potential in every way. I am looking forward to meeting more parents in the near future.

I am continuing my consultation with staff, parents and students over the next couple of weeks as I gain an enriched understanding of the school and community context.

I have also been discussing what systems and structures are already in place, that are working well for the school and community and what is not working quite so well. These conversations are a starting point for me to contribute as a leader to ensuring the continued success of Wales Street.

School Council

Next Wednesday the first School Council Meeting for 2015 will be held. I’m looking forward to working with the nominated representatives of the School Community and forming a positive working relationship which will support the great work of our staff and the community. I’m sure 2015 will be a productive year for the school.

Finance Committee

The finance committee met on Tuesday evening and reviewed the allocation of school funding for 2015. Once the February census is completed our indicative budget will be finalised for 2015. There will be a few challenges to face over the next few years including meeting the ongoing maintenance requirements for our school and integrating ICT into the teaching and learning program. I’m confident that we will work effectively as a committee to address our agreed target areas for the school.

FETE 2015 : Saturday 21st March

The fete will soon be here. Our parent coordinating committee are in full swing and are always looking for that extra pair of helping hands. To sign up for their newsletter “In the Loop” at http://eepurl.com/-88LD
School Council Vacancies and Elections 2015

Each year approximately half the members on school council face election as part of a process to ensure mentoring and renewal of this body. The council members facing elections this year as their current terms have expired are:

Parent members: Lucy Thornton, Maria Romnios, Scott Hamilton and Melinda Story.

DET members: Jenny Deeble.

The role of School Council, the various categories of membership election and calls for nominations for the 2015 election are detailed below. If you choose to nominate, please attach a written paragraph about yourself that can be published in the event of an election and for entry into the newsletter.

If the number of nominations exceeds the vacancies then an election is conducted for members of the School Council of Wales Street PS. Before considering standing for School Council please consider the time commitment as it is an expectation that as a School Council member that you will also be a member of one of the sub committees.

**Election time frame**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd February</td>
<td>Notice of School Council vacancies and calls for nominations</td>
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<td>Nomination forms on the website or copies at the front desk.</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10th March</td>
<td>Closing Date for School Council Nominations at 4pm.</td>
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<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>Notification of School Council Elections if required</td>
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<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside Office.</td>
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<td>Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd March</td>
<td>Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March</td>
<td>Counting of votes and declaration of the poll.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>School Council AGM.</td>
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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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Education and Training (DET) employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
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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.

Votes may be posted to the Principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.

**School Council**

**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 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. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. Wales Street under its current School Council membership schedule does not have any positions under this category.

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 in term one 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. DET 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.

Please ask at the school office for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. It is also a very good idea to consider initially going onto a School Council Committee rather than School Council itself as a way of ensuring that you are not over committing yourself and are clearly about what is involved as a School Council Member. Contact the school for further information.

**School Council and Sub Committee Dates for 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F.A.S.E</th>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>POLICY &amp; STRATEGIC PLANNING</th>
<th>SCHOOL AGED CARE</th>
<th>FINANCE</th>
<th>SCHOOL COUNCIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays 7pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 7pm</td>
<td>Wednesdays 7pm</td>
<td>Fridays 8am</td>
<td>Tuesdays 7pm</td>
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<td><strong>25 March AGM</strong></td>
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Christian Woodcock

Principal
Parent Information Exchange and Prep Information Night

We are having our annual Parent Information Exchange (PIE) night for grade 1 - 6 year levels on Wednesday 25th February.

The Parent Information Exchange will commence at 2.20 and continue until 7.50 pm with 10 minute interviews for parents to book times. We are conducting all interviews in the Clyde Street building to make it more convenient for parents with more than one child to transition between meetings.

The purpose of this night is:

- For parents to meet their child’s class teacher for the new year
- To enable parents to share information about their child’s strengths and areas of concern.
- To provide any information that may assist the class teacher to articulate goals that they may have for their child.
- A two-way meeting between parent and teacher.

As confidential information may be shared at this interview, we would prefer that the students not to attend this evening.

Our Student led conferences, held in June are the opportunity for students to be part of a three way conference to share their learning with their families and teacher.

Bookings can be made through our Compass booking system using the password sent home with the Compass information letter.

Prep Information night will be held on Tuesday 24th of February from 6.30-7.30pm

Prep parents will be walked through ‘A day in the life of a prep student’ and will learn information about routines and programs that will be taught in the prep year.

Topics such as:

- Daily routines
- Teaching philosophy
- Inquiry learning
- Excursions/incursions
- Specialist programs

…And more will be covered on this night by the prep team, specialist, and leadership staff.

As Prep parents are scheduled to meet and discuss their child with the class teacher on Wednesdays after the assessment interview, they are not required to attend the PIE night.

Any questions about these events, please contact the school.

Thankyou

Jenny Deeble

Assistant Principal