From the Principal

School Council Elections – Call for Nominations

Summary of Power and Duties of a School Council

Within statewide guidelines, the major responsibilities of all school councils include:-
- Developing and monitoring the directions of the school strategic plan.
- Establishing the goals and priorities of the school and determining its education policy.
- Approving the school budget consistent with the school charter and maintaining financial responsibility.
- Maintaining and improving the school’s building and grounds.
- Reporting annually to the school community and Department of Education.
- Developing the school’s code of conduct.
- Making a recommendation to the Secretary for the Department of Education on the appointment of a school principal.
- Generally stimulate interest in the school.
- Allow use of the school’s premises by community groups.
- Approve all camps and excursions that are conducted overnight.

Role of School Councillors

Parents and staff are elected to council to represent the interests of all parents and all staff and to ensure that the best outcomes for all students are achieved.

Composition of Thomas Mitchell Primary School Council

Up to 8 parent members
- Up to 4 staff members (DEECD employees)
- Up to 2 community members (cannot be DEECD employees)
- 1 principal

Total 15

School Council members are elected for 2 years. Each year, half the parent members and half the staff members stand down from Council. Parent members are also required to stand down if they no longer fulfil the parent status. They may however, complete their term (ie until March 31st) after their child/children have left the school.

Parent Members
The following parent members’ term expires on 31st March 2016.
Magdaline Goh, Michael Vekic, Jenny Wallace and Andrea Lew.
Current retiring members (above) are welcome to re-nominate if they are eligible.

**DEECD Employee Members**
The following DEECD members’ term expires on 31st March 2016.
Giselle Cassar, Jennifer Churcher

Current retiring members are welcome to renominate.

**Other Vacancies**
1 1 year vacancy due to the resignation of parent member Jing Luo.
2 Community Member vacancies currently unfilled.

**NOTE:** The Principal is always on School Council.

**Timetable For Elections**
Notice of Elections and Call for Nominations – Thursday 18th February 2016.
All voting completed (if necessary) Thursday 10th March 2016.

**Nomination Forms**
Nomination forms are available from the school office.

**Parking in the Drop Off and Pick Up Zone in Cunningham Drive**
Parents are reminded that you must **NOT** leave your car if you are in this zone between 8.30am to 9.15am and 3.30pm to 4.00pm. There is often plenty of parking on the uphill side of the school crossing.

**School Captain Badge Presentation Assembly**
Last Friday, 12th February, our local Member of Parliament, Hon Luke Donnellan presented our student leaders with their badges. Congratulations to the following Year 6 students.

**School Captains**
- Emily
- Samir

**School Vice Captains**
- Amelie
- Abel

**House Captains**
- Bradman: Snezana, Mitch
- Perkins: Mia, Jayden
- Freeman: Amitha, Nathan
- Fraser: Lily-Rose, Ryan
CSEF APPLICATIONS
LAST DAY FOR CLAIMS – MONDAY 29TH FEBRUARY

A CSEF application form has been sent home previously.

All applications must be returned to school no later than Monday 29th February.

Forms can also be downloaded from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef or copies are available from the school office.

Tracey Etherington
Business Manager

Notices Sent Home

- Year 5 Camp (Sent home last Friday)
- District Swimming Carnival
- Prep Activity – Carp Productions ‘Happy to be Me’
- Year 3 Excursion – Victorian Institute of Sport

TMPS ART COMPETITION

DESIGN YOUR OWN HARMONY DAY POSTER

Your poster needs to include:
- Your name and class
- Can be a drawing, painting or collage
- Maximum A3 size
- Theme is ‘Our diversity is our strength’

Due Date:
Lunch time on
Wednesday
16th March 2016

Please hand it in to
Miss Joannidis in Room 20
or
Miss Xu in Room 30

Winners will be announced at the
Harmony Day Assembly
on 21 March 2016

Harmony Day
21 March

Our diversity is our strength

For more information go to
www.harmony.gov.au
**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

**UPCOMING DATES FOR THE UNIFORM SHOP 2016 - TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday mornings 8.30am – 9.30am</th>
<th>Tuesday afternoons 3.00pm – 4.00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th February</td>
<td>1st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th February</td>
<td>15th March</td>
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<td>4th March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*EFT & credit card facilities available (minimum transaction of $15)*

**Uniform Shop – Helpers Wanted**

We are looking for volunteers to help in the uniform shop organising and selling 2nd hand items for sale. Please contact Sally Opie in the uniform shop.

**Year 6 Second/Final Chance To Order Autographed Windcheaters**

A reminder that orders and money for Year 6 Autographed Windcheaters are due back at school by **no later than Friday 26th February. No late orders will be accepted.**

*Sally Opie*

*Uniform Shop*

**SPORT NEWS**

**TMPS Swim Team**

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent TMPS at the District Swimming Carnival. The Carnival will be held next Wednesday 24th February, at Noble Park Swimming Pool.

Good luck to all students competing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elisha</th>
<th>Emily</th>
<th>Vicki</th>
<th>Adrian</th>
<th>Haresh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luna</td>
<td>Joy</td>
<td>Amelie</td>
<td>Nazif</td>
<td>Anush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>Alissa</td>
<td>Natalie</td>
<td>Kai Xuan</td>
<td>Kishon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davene</td>
<td>Adhya</td>
<td>Elena</td>
<td>Elmar</td>
<td>Shamone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jody</td>
<td>Mitsuki</td>
<td>Joanna</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td>Lily-Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a great week!

*Olivia Goder*

*Physical Education Teacher*
**Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal**

We are again supporting the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Many children and babies receive much needed medical attention through the hospital. The funds we raise on behalf of Thomas Mitchell go to helping the RCH provide essential medical equipment & services to Victorian children and their families.

Please help us support the RCH Good Friday Appeal again this year. If you would like to donate please complete the envelope that was attached to the newsletter today and return it to the office with your donation. Thank you so much for your support.

*Louisa Boucher, Social Service*

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**HEALTH CENTRE NEWS**

At Thomas Mitchell Primary School we take pride in our vision and endeavour to provide a safe and healthy learning environment.

**ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT 2016**

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life-threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (cashews), cow’s milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to those triggers. Partnership between school and parents is important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.

This year there are several students in our school community that have a severe life threatening allergy to **tree nuts/peanuts/coconut milk/milk/sesame and eggs**.

This reaction is known as **ANAPHYLAXIS** and can cause death by suffocation within minutes of a reaction. A severe anaphylactic reaction can occur simply from skin contact with a trace of the food product. When a severe reaction occurs, it can be frightening to both the child and those involved in their care.

At Thomas Mitchell Primary School, we feel we have a role to play in reinforcing appropriate avoidance and management strategies.

To support the safety and welfare of our students, we ask all parents to carefully consider the foods that you send to school with your child. Please **avoid sending** the following products:

- SPREADS CONTAINING NUTS SUCH AS NUTELLA AND PEANUT BUTTER
- SNACK BARS CONTAINING ALL NUTS/PEANUT BUTTER
- PEANUTS, CASHEWS ETC
- EGGS

As a whole school community, I think it is important to make every effort to ensure that the safety and health of our children are not jeopardized. Parents who have concerns or require clarification are urged to speak to the classroom teacher. Alternatively, you can contact the office or school nurse for further information.

*Anthea Cupido, School Nurse*
**Parents’ Club**

**Meeting**
We had our first meeting for the year last Friday and wish to thank all the parents who attended! Our next meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Friday 18th March so please put the date in your diaries and come along if you’d like to be involved.

**School Banking**
We had 77 deposits this week which is a steady increase from the last 2 weeks. Thanks to all our regular bankers and welcome to our new bankers!! Please remember to bring your deposits to school at 9am each Wednesday morning.

A Dollarmite account from the Commonwealth Bank is a great way to encourage kids to start saving for their futures! **The school receives $5 for each new account registered as well as 5% commission on each deposit made through School Banking.** All the money deposited stays in the child’s account earning interest and is accessible whenever you’re ready to use it!

If you would like to join School Banking, please collect a Parents Pack from the School Office or go to your local Commonwealth Bank branch to open an account. Once you have a deposit book, please send it to school each Wednesday by 9am with the amount you’d like to deposit. This can be **as little as 50c or as much as you’d like**! Please ensure you complete your deposit slip and include the correct amount of money. Each deposit will earn 1 silver token. Once you have 10 silver tokens (or 1 gold token), you can redeem a reward!

We have a new Rewards Theme for this year called Outback Savers. The rewards available for Term 1 are a Flying Snake Tail or a Wildlife Writer Set. Further rewards will be released for Term 2 onwards. Samples of all the rewards for the year are available for viewing at the School Office, or in the display cabinet near the Library.

Items still available from previous years are: Dollarmites Moneybox (2014), ET DVD, Outerspace Money Box, Intergalactic Rocket or Galaxy Glider (Frisbee).

If you’d like to order a reward and have saved 10 tokens, please include your tokens in your deposit book with a note to say which reward you’d like and we’ll order it for you.

The Commonwealth Bank are also running a new competition for 2016! The winner will receive a Full Day Platinum Zoo Adventure Tour at Australia Zoo including a meet and greet with Bindi & Robert Irwin!! Flights, accommodation, hire car and spending money are also included for 2 adults and 3 children. To gain entry to the comp, you just need to make 15 or more deposits before the end of Term 3!

**Volunteers - If you'd like to help process the banking with us this year, please come to the staffroom at 9.00am each Wednesday. We usually have everything processed within an hour.**

**Easter Raffle**
We will be running an Easter Raffle again this year with tickets available from 3rd March. More details to follow soon.
Casey Kings FC welcomes girls and boys of all ages in their 2016 season. Training will be held twice a week on Monday and Wednesday from 6.30pm to 8.00pm at Betula Reserve, Kids Road, Doveton. Registrations will be accepted until Wednesday 24th February. For further information, please contact Rada on 0438 575 841 or Verica on 0418 544 081.

St Paul’s Netball Club

St Paul’s Netball Club has teams in U11, U13, U15 and U17. Boys and girls are welcome. Competition is held on Saturday at the Gloria Pykes Stadium, Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong. For further information please contact Brett on 0421 097 342 or Laura on 0434 298 153. Email stpaulnetballclub@gmail.com

Endeavour Sporting Club – James Cook Junior Football Club

If you are a soccer player and would like to join a successful club, we are seeking new senior and junior players to join. For further details and more information please contact Jalil on 0421 931 747 or Jim on 0413 979 480 Email: endeavoursportingclub@gmail.com

Thomas Mitchell OSHC | 18th February 2016
0415 326 328

This week we are asking for all families that attend OSHC to update their Child Enrolment Information Sheets as this will allow us to contact you in case of an emergency.

Also if we have given you a Medical Management Plan for your child, please return this ASAP as they are now overdue.

If you have any questions about Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), please feel free to drop by the program!

Janice is now back from holidays and Jessie is away for the next two weeks on holiday.

Janice DeClase and the OSHC Team 😊