



East Bentleigh
Primary School

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to our second School Council Newsletter!

I hope you all enjoyed our first edition and understand a bit more about the work of the School Council and the subcommittees. We have some exciting updates to share this edition, particularly through the subcommittees which are really getting up and running. ***We REALLY need more members for the subcommittees, so please consider joining! If you'd like more info, please contact Julia or the convener of the sub committee.***

What is the School Council?

The School Council is comprised members from the Department of Education (ie school staff) and parents. In essence, the role of school council is one of setting the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight (not management) of the school's operation. Included in the responsibilities of the council are; raising money for things that the school needs, making sure the school's grounds and buildings are maintained and creating interest in the school within the community. These and other responsibilities are worked on through subcommittees.

Who are the current council members?

Staff – Maria Shearn, Susan Jackson (Treasurer), Aaron Jones (Secretary), Michelle Mather,

Parents – Rachel Jeffreys, Helen Woodruff (President), Julia Kahan, Leah Moore, Scott Maunders (Vice President), Emily Jones, Lisa Vance

This newsletter will



Provide updates about School
Council decisions



Provide news on the work of
Subcommittees



Provide a section dedicated to
questions & concerns raised by
parents

Do you have questions or concerns about general school matters?

We would like to invite parents to send us (the council members) any questions or concerns you have. We will raise any relevant concerns with management and/or at council, and provide responses in the following newsletter!

Please note – your privacy will be respected, and questions/concerns brought up anonymously unless you request otherwise. These questions should be relevant to general school matters, any personal concerns should be raised with your teacher or the school management.

You can email Julia, convener of the Communications committee at julia.kahan@gmail.com or any other members on the emails below.





Council Decisions and Updates

Council Meeting 5th June 2023

- Prep 2024 Information night was held on May 24th and attended by 12 families. We encourage families to begin enrolling children for Prep next year! Discussion was had regarding widespread low enrolments this year across metropolitan areas, with many families moving to regional areas and interstate.
- Mid Winter Festival will be held on June 21st this year.
- School Review – All government schools are involved in a review process every 4 years, and this year is a review year for our school. The outcome of the review forms the basis of the strategic school plan for the next 4 years. For example, if it is found that numeracy is an area for improvement, specific goals will be created for the next 4 years. The process of the review begins with an internal self assessment conducted by the school, which includes gathering feedback from the school community. As part of this process, the school will hold a community consultation meeting – more information will be provided in the coming weeks. We strongly encourage all parents to participate in the meeting or provide written feedback. The internal review is presented to an external reviewer along with the data gathered, who will create a report which is presented to the School Council and Department of Education. The School Leadership team and Council will then create a new strategic plan which will set out the direction for the next 4 years.
- Mid Year reports are being finalised and will be sent home on June 15th



Subcommittee Updates

We need YOU!

Did you know you can be a part of the important work of the School Council?!

The School Council has several sub committees that welcome any parents or community members. These subcommittees have the potential to make a significant impact on the quality of your child's school experience. It is really up to us – there is so much we can achieve for our school and children through this work.



Joining a committee involves attending a 6-8 meetings per year, and some work outside of this, based on what you are able to contribute. For example, it could involve researching and applying for a grant, or creating a poster and distributing in local kindergartens.

Fundraising and Initiatives Committee

Committee Convener: Rachel Jeffreys - rachel@heypup.com

The Fundraising and Initiatives Committee has **three main areas**:

1. It is responsible for school fundraising and events – including the popular Farmers Market and Thursday Markets. It will also seek to raise funds through other avenues and such as applying for grants and other fundraising activities. The committee will also propose potential uses of the funding raised.
2. Organise school community events to provide opportunities for the school and community to engage with each other, building a positive, enjoyable and inclusive culture, as well as support the class reps in engaging with the parents to participate in school life.
3. Oversee the O.S.H.C program (out of school hours care) and provide recommendations for changes and improvements as required.

Committee Updates

The May Farmers market was well attended and the profit was \$3,179. YTD we have raised \$13,775. The market currently funds the Kitchen Garden program which is for students from Grade 3-6. The committee is exploring options for using Market funding to also support programs and activities for children in Prep – Grade 2. The Committee is working through fundraising ideas & available grants to support redevelopment of the main playground area next to the school oval. We hope to have plans & timings for the new play space to share with the school community in Term 3.

Please contact Rachel on the email above if you would like to join the committee or would like to ask more questions about joining.

Communication and Engagement Committee

Committee Convener: Julia Kahan julia.kahan@gmail.com

The Communications and Engagement Committee is responsible for communications in two areas:

1. Internal communications with school community – providing a Two-way engagement with the school community on issues resolution and ideas generation, messages from school committee; class reps and canvassing of volunteers and support for funding raising and initiatives
2. External communications with school and wider local community to raise awareness in the community about what our school offers and increase interest in the school and the school activities such as fundraisers through promotions at community events, through social media and more, meeting with local government representatives, engaging with local kinders and other organisations. This is key to keep our school thriving!

Committee Updates



The Communication committee published its first (and now second!) edition of the School Council Newsletter. The committee supported publicising the Open Day (with support from the Fundraising committee by posting on social media and distributing posters in local stores).

The committee will be holding its first official meeting in the coming weeks and will be focusing on activities to raise the profile of the school in the local community and encourage higher enrolments.

Please contact Julia on the email above if you would like to join the committee or would like to ask more questions about joining.

Infrastructure Committee

Committee Convener: Scott Maunders - scottmaunders@hotmail.com

The Infrastructure committee is responsible for making sure the school's grounds and buildings are well maintained. This includes organising working bees, planning and implementing improvements to school grounds, reviewing quotes for works to the grounds and generating new ideas for the improvements of the school grounds.

Committee Updates

The Infrastructure committee is proposing a redevelopment of the main playground area. See the pictures at the end of the newsletter for inspiration!

The committee is looking into updated gates at the back and front of school, with a new school sign for the front – also see images at the end of the newsletter for inspiration!

Several maintenance issues have been organised – such as a new handle for the flying fox, maintenance of overhanging trees in front of school, and an electrician to fix non-working hand dryers. The committee is also reviewing removing the worn wooden stumps and certain wooden structures that are hazards in the main playground area.

Scott has been in communication with Local Council regrading side access pathway (from carpark). A new gate has been requested to stop non-school related people entering school grounds and minimise risk of children getting near the road.

The committee is reviewing perimeter fencing and how to reduce people congregating at the school out of school hours as there has been an increase in rubbish and vandalism recently.

Please contact Scott on the email above if you would like to join the committee or would like to ask more questions about joining.

Education Committee

Committee Convener: Sue Jackson – susan.jackson@education.vic.gov.au

The Education committee is responsible for settling and reviewing policies (guiding principles designed to influence decisions, actions, that the school makes) and developing, reviewing and monitoring both the Student Code of Conduct (how the schools expect students to behave, how bullying will be managed and the school's approach to managing student behaviour) and the School Dress Code.

Committee Updates

The Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy was endorsed by Principal Maria Shearn and ratified at the meeting. It will be available on the school website.

The Statement of Values and School Philosophy Policy was endorsed by Principal Maria Shearn and ratified at the meeting. It will be available on the school website.



Please contact Sue on the email above if you would like to join the committee or would like to ask more questions about joining.

Finance Committee

Committee Convener: Sue Jackson – susan.jackson@education.vic.gov.au

The Finance committee contributes to the development of the strategic plan and to the financial planning and annual budgeting.

Committee Updates

The May reports will be tabled at the next School Council Meeting with the June and July reports. Jane Keen – our business manager - is on leave and will complete end of month reports when she returns.

Please contact Sue on the email above if you would like to join the committee or would like to ask more questions about joining.



Your Questions Answered

No Questions this meeting! Please remember to send through any questions you have to julia.kahan@gmail.com or any other school council members at any time and they will be raised and published in the next edition.



Playground Inspiration!







Sign/Gate Inspiration!

