



East Bentleigh
Primary School

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to our fifth School Council Newsletter!

This edition will cover the November School Council Meeting.

This newsletter will be written by parents, to the parents, to create an open line of communication with the School Council and the important work it does.

Who are the current council members?

Staff – Maria Shearn, Susan Jackson, Aaron Jones, Michelle Mather,

Parents – Rachel Jeffreys, Helen Woodruff (President), Julia Kahan, Leah Moore, Emily Jones, Lisa Vance. Since our November meeting, Lisa Cleland has also joined the council.

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

- Retirement of Maria Shearn; Maria advised the Council at the meeting of her retirement. The School council formally put on record it's gratitude and respect for Maria's 18 years of service.
- Ratified Parent Payment Policy with amendments and Draft program budgets: ratified and passed – *you may have received, or will soon receive a letter regarding 2024 fees in the mail. Our Parent Payment Policy has been updated, and a summary of costs will now be sent each year at the end of year for families to have more time to prepare.*
- On Tuesday 28th November, the School Council met for a training and briefing by the Senior Education Improvement Leader on the process for Principal Selection. A panel will be formed which will include the School Council President, one School council parent member, one staff member and two people appointed by the Department of Education. The panel will be involved in the process and then make a recommendation to the School Council, who will then accept or not accept the recommendation. The advertisement for the role will likely be placed in late February, with the intention of having the new Principal start at the start of Term 2.
- Our awards assembly this year will be held on Monday 18th December beginning at 9am.

In late February we will have a casual vacancy open, as well as 3 full term positions open so we encourage all parents to consider joining our School Council as well as Sub committees, there is lots of work to be done and some wonderful ways we can grow and improve our school!



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.

Farmers Market and Grants Committee

Committee Convener: Rachel Jeffreys - rachel@heypup.com

The Farmers Market Committee is responsible for managing and improving the Farmers market, which is the major source of fundraising for the school.

Committee Updates

- YTD PROFIT \$28,478. On track for approx. \$32K total for 2023
- Options for sponsorship of the market to Maria and Heidi in early October. We have aligned on two sponsorship opportunities – major market sponsor and breakfast stall sponsor.
- We are aiming to receive \$2K - \$5K for the major market sponsor for a 12-month period, beginning Jan 2024.
- The committee are also researching a variety of grants available and potential projects. They have been visiting neighbouring schools and met with Nick Staikos. They are gathering information to be able to start working on some new projects next year.

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 marketing materials are still a work in progress, with the aim to be finalised by early next year.
- The big focus of the Committee for the first half of 2024 will be to lift local interest in the school, through the Open day and leading up to it.
- The committee will also organise a School Readiness talk, to be given about one month before the Open Day and posters/information distributed to local kinders.



- The Committee will work with the school team managing the social media to advertise these events through those platforms.

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: TBC Maria has acted in this role.

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 East Bentleigh Soccer Club has paid for their use of our oval for their training 2022-2023. They certainly have been very good 'tenant'. They have asked to continue this for the 2023-2024 season. SC ratified this.
- Sam from 280Fresh Veg, has been approached in regards to completing maintenance, (aeration and seed sowing), for oval. The aim is to have this work happen over the school holidays
- We received notice from DE last week- 'the following spaces have been changed to have No Entitlement—Non-Cleanable at East Bentleigh Primary School:
Taraleigh Pre-School Building (Rooms 44, 72, 158, and 159) has been reclassified as No-Entitlement-Non-Cleanable (108.9 m2); previously, these were cleanable.
With this change, the service provider will cease cleaning these areas and reduce the cleaning hours provided to the school.'

Please contact the School Council if you would like to join or run 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

- Parent Payment Policy has been updated during sub-committee meeting, which was ratified at SC
- SC discussed Reports on Compass instead of paper copies.



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

- School fees latter and new Parent Payment Policy ratified.

The Finance committee meetings monthly and would love some new members. This Committee meets during school hours. If you have knowledge/experience in Finance, this could be a great way to contribute your skills to our school! Please contact Sue on the email above if you would like to join the committee or would like to ask more questions about joining

Fundraising and Events Committee

Committee Convener: Leah Moore - tamjewellery@gmail.com

The Fundraising and Events Committee has **two main areas**:

1. It is responsible for school fundraising and events – including the 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.

The Fundraising and Initiatives Committee has newly started up and needs more members! This committee meets 6-8 times per year and at times by agreement with the committee.

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

Committee Updates

- The committee will be looking to bring back the Bush Dance, likely at the start of 2024.

