Welcome to the first Principal’s Bulletin for 2017

Communication

This year we will be using a variety of ways to communicate with our Gleneagles families. In the past we relied on the weekly newsletter but we are moving to electronic communications. This will mean that we can communicate with parents directly and you will not need to rely on finding the newsletter in your child’s school bag. That’s got to be a good thing!

There will still be a College newsletter each fortnight and it will be published on our website and via News Feed for parents and students on Compass. Parents can access the News Feed by logging on to Compass or using the Compass app on your mobile device, at any time of your convenience. Our next newsletter will be published on Friday February 10th.

Information on how to log in to Compass is attached to this Bulletin. There is so much you can learn about the school, your child’s program and progress. It’s essential that parents regularly log onto Compass.

Swimming Sports

The College Swimming Sports will be held on Monday 6th of March and we look forward to all students attending. If they are not going to compete they can support their house, perhaps help with the running of the event and so much more. We need all parents to complete the electronic permission slip that is on Compass. It’ll be waiting for you at the top of your News Feed bar when you log into Compass.

School Council Elections

This year three Parent Representative positions for a two year term and one DET Employee Representative position falls vacant. Please read the next page to find out more about what is involved in being on Council. Interested parents may also like to contact the Principal, Sue Peddlesden to discuss the opportunity.

Nominations will open on 17th February 2016 and close on 24th February 2016. Further details on how to nominate will be published via Compass News Feed and on the College website. Nominations will be assessed and if an election is required, the ballot will be held between 3rd and 10th March 2017. Elected Councillors would commence their duties at the next Council meeting held on 20th March 2016. Council meets a minimum of eight times per year and currently meetings are held at 7.00pm on a Monday night. Future dates can be located on the College website. Being on Council is a great opportunity to contribute to development of the College and its policies.

Year 7 Welcome BBQ

I look forward to meeting parents at our Year 7 Welcome BBQ on Wednesday, February 15th from 5.30p.m. It’s a great opportunity to meet your child’s Home Group teacher, key staff and other parents in a relaxed atmosphere. Have a night off from cooking and let us cater for your family’s dinner.

Is your child keen to learn a musical instrument? You’ll have the opportunity to learn more about our instrumental music program and sign your child up to learn an instrument.

Parent information session about Ongoing Reporting and Compass will commence at 5.00 and be repeated at 5.30 and 6.30p.m. Please just pop into the library for one of these sessions.

Sue Peddlesden
College Principal
WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide 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?
For most school councils, 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 engaged in work 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 - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Gleneagles Council has five parent members, three community representatives and four DET members including the Principal.

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 of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. 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 engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school. 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.

Generally, 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.

For further details, contact Sue Peddlesden, Principal of Gleneagles.