



## *Yinnar South Primary School Newsletter*

### *3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017*

Wellbeing  
Integrity  
Self -Mastery  
Empathy

School Vision Statement –

At Yinnar South Primary Learning Community we strive to create a flexible, vibrant and dynamic learning environment that customises individual wholistic development and maximises personal achievement.

### **Up Coming Events**

#### **March**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Call for nominations for School Council
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - School levies due
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Pupil Free day- Staff Professional Development
- 9<sup>th</sup> - School Photos
- 13<sup>th</sup> - No School Public Holiday
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Yinnar & District Sports- at the Yinnar Football Grounds.
- 30<sup>th</sup> - School Council 6-7pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Sovereign Hill Deposit Due

#### **School Terms 2017**

- Term 1 31 January - 31 March
- Term 2 18 April - 30 June
- Term 3 17 July - 22 September
- Term 4 9 October - 22 December

### **Katy's Chat**

As I reflected on what was happening in our school community the other day, I felt really happy. I had been watching the older students helping one of the younger students. No one had asked them to, they just do it naturally. They were encouraging, supportive and caring. I looked around and one of our wonderful parents was working in the frog bog and I thought back over the volunteers who had been coming into help in the kitchen and about those who facilitate our playgroup. I had been working on the school council election process and I thought of the amazing parents who have been involved in school council over my time in the school.

I thought about the community members from Landcare that had promised to come visit us soon to discuss our next tree planting project and Pastor Brenda Bernie who had popped in for a visit to see how everyone was going.

I thought about our dedicated staff team and the passionate way they approach developing themselves and our students.

It was wonderful to take a minute to acknowledge the sense of community that we are fostering. I am proud to be part of the Yinnar South Learning Community.

This fortnight's newsletter has some vital information regarding School Council elections and Emergency Communication. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding either item.

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## **Emergency Communication**

This week we sent out trial emergency SMS alert to the person listed as person A on your child's contact list. This SMS system will be used to alert you if there is any emergency at the school.

It is vital that you follow any instructions given, in particular if the SMS states not to attend the school. These policies and procedures are established to maximise the safety of our precious students.

It is also absolutely crucial that you do not use Katy's personal mobile to contact the school. Please also avoid ringing the office as we need our phone lines clear (we only have one line) to coordinate the emergency management. We will contact you by SMS as soon as practical to keep you updated with what is happening.

## **Updat-ed**

Yinnar South Primary has always prided itself on keeping clear communication with our community, however as we grow, we are looking at more innovative ways to help you to link with your child's learning experience. We realise that often the wonderful things that are happening during the day are all packed up and out of sight by pick up time and we know children don't always tell you about their day.

We are excited to announce our launch of using the Updat-ed app. This app can be downloaded free to any smart phone. We will be starting to upload photos and information about what is happening around the school. The app is also linked to the webpage which we are trying to update more regularly.

## **Absences**

Yinnar South Primary school strongly supports the It's not OK to be away policy regarding school attendance however we also acknowledge that sometimes students have a genuine need to be absent from school. In the case of your child being absent from school please follow the procedure below.

Fill in an absence form on the Yinnar South website, Updat-ed app or call school office in morning to notify staff of student's absence. Send a note regarding your child's absence when they return to school.

## **Yinnar South Primary Wins**

Our students should be so incredibly proud. Not only did our students enjoy a wonderful internal reward activity for their participation in the Walk to School Competition last year but we also were awarded first prize for the Latrobe Valley. We won a \$2000 grant to be used to purchase fitness related equipment for our school. We also received an equal first for the whole of the Eastern Region, winning a Football clinic (soccer), with the Melbourne City Soccer Team. This is an incredible achievement for our students. We would like to thank Coral for her hard work facilitating this activity.

The students have voted on a spider climbing frame for the playground which is part of the Fitness and Fun range. We will need to raise a little more money to cover some additional costs. Please watch out for how you can help us with this fundraising.

Well Done Yinnar South Primary!

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## Yinnar South Primary School

### School Council Election 2017 - Information for Parents

Dear Parents,

As part of our compliance process each year we run a school council election. If you are interested in becoming involved in school council please see the information below.

We would like to thank the following councillors for their valued contributions to the school community as they come to the end of their two year term on school council. These positions will be declared vacant as part of this year's process.

Julie Reggardo, Justine Barrett and Linh Nyuyen

Positions Vacant : Two parent Positions  
: One DET Employee member

We would also like to thank Callie Dunbar and Michelle McKinnell for their wonderful contribution to school council. They will both be resigning from school council in 2017. These positions are becoming vacant mid- term so we will be co-opting 2 parents into these positions to hold a one year role at the next meeting.

Please note the important dates below:

**Friday 3rd March - Call for nominations (Please see the office for a nomination form)**

**Friday 10th March – Close of nominations and assessing and deciding if a ballot is required.**

**Friday 24th March – Close of Ballot (4.00 Sharp) Count of Ballots and declare Poll**

**Thursday 30th April – First Council Meeting 6.00pm**

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 statewide 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:

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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.

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.

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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.

Contact the principal for further information.

### **School Photos**

The envelopes with all of the details went home with the students yesterday. These need to be returned to school before or on the day with the correct full payment. Please ensure that you are at **school on time for the photos**. If you would like a school sibling photo please come to the office to pick up an envelope.

### **Yinnar and District Athletics**

Yinnar and District Athletics on 24 March. Please be advised, we are unable to provide transport so it will need to be arranged privately.

Please see Katy if you are able to volunteer or have any concerns. More details to follow

### **Play is the Way**

Be Brave – Participate to progress.

School is about stepping bravely into the unknown. The unknown is often uncomfortable.

The braver you are the more you learn.

### **Wise Moment Recipients**

Brodie made a good strong choice, he sat down when spoken to.

Leah made a strong choice when she helped another student.

Jake was participating.

Maddie was the master of her actions when she ignored classmates who were trying to distract her.



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## Wattle



Wattles students enjoyed discovering gems in ice as part of their Numeracy lesson on Wednesday afternoon.

Investigating our classroom pets the leafy stick insects.



Wattle students playing Dead Ants as part of our Play is the Way lessons.



Wattle students enjoying their time together!

## Wanted

Old overalls for the students to wear when painting in the garden.

## Life Styles

Life Styles levies are due. The cost is \$30.00 per student each term.

## Bulb Drive

Attached to this newsletter is a bulb drive order form. The money raised from this will go towards the purchase of a spider web climbing frame. All of the order forms complete with correct money need to be handed in by the 20th April.



## **Kitchen Roster**

**9th March - Linh**

**16th March - Leonie Sophie**

## **Laundry Roster**

**Paula**

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Most of the recipes cooked by the students are on our website under heading Curriculum then Sustainability.



### **Wise Little Owls Playgroup**

All parents and community members are invited to attend Yinnar South Primary School's Playgroup, 'Wise Little Owls'.



This playgroup has been designed to complement the school's vision that focuses on individual wholistic development in a flexible, vibrant and dynamic learning environment.

We aim to provide an environment where children learn through play. We will offer opportunities for children to play freely and explore the world through nature, art, their senses and health and well-being activities. We value children and parents/caregivers, recognising the importance of parenting and being gentle and respectful to ourselves, our children and others.

'Wise Little Owls' will come together on a Wednesday at 9.15am until 11.15am in the hall at Yinnar South Primary School. We ask that each family contributes \$2.50 for a session to cover the materials and bring a piece of fruit to share. The program has been created around the four seasons with each school term dedicated to a season. Each session will have a weekly rhythm that looks something like the following:

Welcome, cuppa and play

Sharing a snack together

Facilitated activity

Free play and pack up time

Story (provided by families)

Meditation

\*\*\*\* Please note that if your child isn't ready or doesn't feel like joining in on any of the activities there will be no expectations for them to do so. We celebrate that every child is an individual; readiness and willingness to be part of a group is something that often comes with time and practice and should not be pushed. There is plenty of space for children to explore and play on their own.



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