Dear Parents and Friends,

KYABRAM P-12 COLLEGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017
Nominations are now open for five parent vacancies, three staff vacancies and two student or community vacancies on our College Council. If you are an enthusiastic parent, staff member or community member interested in getting more involved and having a say in what our school is doing, or know someone who is, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for people who are committed to improving the educational outcomes for all our students.

Effective councils have a broad range of experience, skills and expertise. Face-to-face and online training is also available to help councillors develop the skills and knowledge for the job. Parents find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Nominations close on Thursday February 23rd 2017 and forms are available from the College office.

School Councils play a vital role in the educational opportunities and outcomes of all students at the school. 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. I would like our parents and staff to consider nominating for Kyabram P-12 College Council in 2017. Nomination forms for College Council will be available to collect from the offices in our school, from today, and close on Thursday February 23rd 2017. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 23rd 2017 at 6:30pm. Please continue reading below for further information.

School Council Elections – Information for Parents

What is a School Council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the college provides for its students.

Who is on the School Council?
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 college as long as they are not employed 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 college is automatically one of these members.

• **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed 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 college 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 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 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 if are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections (if this occurs)
- Contact the Principal for further information.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –
CONSULTANT IN OUR COLLEGE

During the next twelve months our school staff will be working closely with an external consultant to assist us in implementing the changes recommended in the school review conducted during 2016 at Kyabram College.

We will be employing John Sloan, consultant with National Curriculum Services and RJS Consulting, to assist us during the remainder of 2017. John is an experienced Australian and international P – 12 educator, principal and teacher. During the past six years John has been assisting schools around Australia to improve their educational environments so that students and teachers work in an orderly and high functioning educational environment.

John will be working closely with me, the staff, students, School Council and the community to assist us to become the very best school we can be so that your children achieve at their best, aspire to, and dream of, future successes. If parents wish to make personal contact with John he can be contacted by email: john.sloan50@gmail.com

Stuart Bott
College Principal

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<tr>
<td>Parent member (1 year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DET employee member (1 Year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community member (Students/Community) (1 Year)</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Business Manager’s Report
Jan Prior

WELCOME BACK TO 2017

Welcome to our families for 2017. We hope your children have settled into the new school year and enjoying their class. I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing, safe and fun filled holiday over the Christmas and New Year Period. I would like to welcome our new non-teaching staff to the College for 2017 and in particular our College Trainees: Courtney Parsell (Performing Arts), Zac Warde (Horticulture and Grounds) and Liam Nedeljkovich (Sports).

OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS 2017

The College offers a range of services for our families. All monies are paid and receipted at the Central Business Administration area, located in Fischer Street and we offer a range of payment options. Over the last week we have also introduced Compass Pay for payment of Materials and Resources and also for excursions. Please see further details below. The Primary Campus office supports students and parents for student based enquiries and if we can help you with any enquiries across the College, please contact the Office Team on 58512100.
**PAYMENT ENVELOPES**

For our Primary aged students ‘payment envelopes’ are used and these will also be sent home with our new families this week. The payment envelopes support our younger children when they need to bring money along to school to give to their teacher. Please let us know when you need extras.

**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND**

Thank you to those families who have completed a Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) application. This program means that students who are eligible will be supported till the end of Year 12.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

Please contact the Office on 5851 2100 for an application form

**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND – PREP PACKAGE**

Support is available through State Schools Relief for Preps in 2017.

This means that Prep students are eligible for the following: windcheater and track suit pants to the value of $57,

- Applications for the Prep Package will open Tuesday 18th April (First day of Term 2)
- Prep students in 2017 who are eligible Camp, Sports and Excursion Funds (CSEF) recipients are automatically eligible for uniform support.
- Please call in to the office to complete your CSEF application form and Prep Uniform application.

**COMPASS PAY**

Great News! Since the successful introduction of Compass into the College for Attendance, Reporting, Calendar, Events and Communication over recent years, Kyabram P-12 College have now introduced Compass Pay. This means that you can now consent and pay in full for excursions for your child. This can be done at a time that suits you, on Compass, instead of the need to return hard copy permission forms or bring cash into the office. If you still prefer to send in a consent form with your child and pay at the office, then that is quite OK.

There are a number of other ways you are able to make payments including BPay (details on front of statement), Internet, Centrepay (forms available at the college office), Eftpos, Cheque and Cash.

Information has been sent home with the family statements this week with detailed steps on how to use Compass Pay.

We hope that this will be another option that we can support families with by making payments at a time or type of payment that suits you.

**P-6 Principal Report**

**Kate Whitford**

**WELCOME BACK FOR 2017**

Welcome to the 2017 school year. This year promises to be another very exciting one for our primary campus. The students have made a great start to the school year with all classes very settled and the playground has been wonderfully calm and friendly. I would particularly like to welcome our new families who are either starting their school journey in Prep or who have joined us from other areas and other schools. Please ask lots of questions and seek help and advice whenever it is needed. A big thank you to our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly over the break to ensure that everything was ready for the start of the year. The thorough planning that goes into these first weeks of school set us up beautifully for what promises to be a great year.

**STAFFING**

This year we have some new and returning faces in our teaching team. Welcome Claire Bourke who is working in the 5/6 area. Welcome back Dylan Nexhip, (3/4 Learning Community Leader), Benita Morden (3/4 Studio) and Karli Myers (5/6 Wellbeing).
SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
A reminder that our whole school (primary campus) assemblies take place in our P-2 Building every Monday morning from 9:00 am until approximately 9:30 am. This is a great opportunity to share in our successes, and celebrations, and keep up to date with what is happening in our school. As with all school events, parents, family members and friends are more than welcome to attend.

FOOD ALLERGIES AND SHARING FOOD
At Kyabram P-12 College we work towards being an Allergy-Aware School. We have a number of students who are anaphylactic or allergic to certain kinds of foods. We ask that families do not bring foods in lunchboxes that contain nuts or nut products and we ask that parents remind all students to not share food with classmates. With your help we can support all students and maintain a safe school environment for everyone.

ATTENDANCE LADDER
This year we have introduced an attendance ladder. The year level which has the best attendance over the month will be on top of the ladder and receive a reward. The type of reward will be decided by Mrs Whitford and the classroom teacher in consultation with the students. The ladder will be displayed at the office. Remember, being away from school is not okay; if you miss a day you miss out on learning.

Congratulations to Mrs Tindale’s class for no unexplained absences so far this month!

CLASS CAPTAINS
Each class has nominated two class captains for this term. Captains have the responsibility of reporting to me at our meeting each fortnight. We discuss their classroom, the yard and any thoughts and ideas they have for improving our school.

SCHOOL HATS AND WATER BOTTLES
With the warm weather about, it is vital that all students wear their school hat when outside. Students who do not have a hat will be asked to sit under the tree in our designated shade area. Students should also be drinking water regularly while they are playing and using their water bottles during class time.

GOOD LUCK
Good luck to our Year 1 and 2 students who have excursions to the Fauna Park planned. We look forward to hearing about your day and seeing some of the photographs from you adventures. Thank you to all those involved in the organising and running of this day

P-6 Awards

Congratulations to last week’s class award winners Prep C and Prep W, and this week’s award winners.
The purpose of the Home Reading Program is for students to practice reading skills taught at school, and to encourage an enthusiasm for reading. It is important not to worry your child too much about reading levels or to compare them to other children. Each child is learning at a different speed and concentrating on different things at different times. Enjoy reading with your child and please speak to your classroom teacher if you have any concerns.

Levels in reading –

1. **Just Right books** *(take home readers for parents and child to go over skills taught)* – high success reading.
   Students should find Just Right books easy to read. When reading they should have very few errors (less than 1 per page). High levels of accuracy produce the best reading growth. Accurate reading leaves brain space for comprehension and thoughts about the text. High success reading also builds ‘stamina’ – the ability to read for longer.

2. **Instructional level** *(school books for teacher and child working on new skills)*
   Instructional books teach your child new skills, with some challenge and high expectations. These books are used in Guided Reading where the teacher works with a small group of students on a specific need, such as retelling the story in sequence.

3. **Hard texts** *(books to share with adult reading to or with child)*
   A text is hard for a student if they make more than 5 errors on the first page. If a hard book comes home in your child’s reader cover, read the book together. Frustration and refusal will occur if the child is made to read hard text.

An interesting statistic – a student who reads 21 minutes per day outside of school reads almost 2 million words per year. A student who reads less than a minute per day outside of school only reads 21,000 words at the most.

**Prep** – students will bring home a range of books depending on individual needs and will include alphabet books, books that focus on letter blends and levelled books.

**Grade 1/2** – will have levelled books in their home reader; they may also bring library books home to read.

**Grade 3/4** – use a reading program called the Lexile Framework. This program matches students to text and monitors their growth in independent reading. The main focus of the program is comprehension of text, that students understand what they read.

All parents and family are invited into the classrooms from 8:40 am to listen to children read and change books over.

**Year 3/4 News**

We have had an excellent start, settling into 2017 at school! Welcoming our students with lots of get-to-know-you activities and games has been a real hit; and relationships in our classrooms are off to a great start. By working on our relationships, we are building into students a sense of safety, trust, belonging and well-being.

When asked what they thought about the school year so far…

Breanna says, "I have had a very good time with my class. They have been helpful and kind."

Catriona, “It has been amazing. I like my teacher. We have played lots of games.”

Our start-up program has also included:
1. Each class sending a ‘Hello Letter’ to our parents.
2. Coming up with a ‘Learning Plan’ for each classroom.
3. Inviting parents to meet teachers and show what we have been doing at ‘Hello Night’.
4. Implementing a ball skills program (mixed group rotations) in 3/4 Sport.
5. Re-introducing VCOP for our Big Write focus in writing….. and more.
It has been fun getting into our specialist subjects: Art with Ms Goff; Performing Arts with Mrs Meeking; ICT with Mr Davidson; PE with Mrs Mangan; and Wellbeing with Mrs Buckell.

We are excited about focusing on a book by a local author, to start up our Book Clubs in Literacy.

We encourage you to start the year listening to your child read at home most nights. Please remember to sign your child’s diary when you do. Find a time that suits you best and make it a part of your daily routine.

We would love to have parents come in and listen to children read in the mornings, with rooms opening at 8:40 am. Even if it was one morning a week, it would be much appreciated!

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**Primary Music Lessons**

Sue Meeking

Families have submitted their application forms. It takes time to arrange the instruments on loan and class groupings for these sessions but most music lessons will be under way by next week. Feel free to ask your child to get a copy of their lesson timetable from their music teacher to bring home.

If you have an instrument at home which belongs to the school please return that item immediately, so that other students can have a turn.

Our school has a generous music program. We look forward to the happy sounds of beginner music very soon and thank families for supporting this venture for their children.

I am happy to answer any enquiries if you contact Sue Meeking by email or the school phone.

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**Scholastic Book Club 2017**

Cheryl Child and Anna Hooper

Our College participates in the Scholastic Book Club where two catalogues are issued per term. The first catalogue was distributed this last week and orders are due by Monday, 20th February. Place your order in a sealed envelope/bag with payment to be forwarded to the Primary Office. This is a great opportunity to purchase from a great range of books and gifts for any occasion.

The school benefits from these purchases via a points reward system from Scholastic. Last year we received approximately $1200.00 worth of books for the college library.

If you require your order not to be delivered to your child for any reason, eg ‘birthday present’ please note this on your order and you will be notified for collection.
Welcome back to all staff, students and families for 2017. I hope you have all had a relaxing break and are ready for a big 2017. This year we have a number of new Year Level coordinators.

- **Learning Community Leader Years 7/8** – Mrs Vivienne Thomas
- **Learning Community Leader Years 10-12** – Mrs Louise Mellington
- **Year 7 Coordinators** – Ms Lainie Lockwood, Mrs Leonie Harding
- **Year 8 Coordinator** – Ms Renee Howell
- **Year 8 Assistant Coordinator** – Ms Caitlin Powell
- **Year 9 Coordinator** – Mr Jarrad Walker
- **Year 9 Assistant Coordinator** – Mrs Katharine Corrin
- **Year 10 Coordinator** – Ms Sonia Layton
- **Year 10 Assistant Coordinator** – Mr Mark Ogden
- **Year 11 Coordinator** – Ms Angela Heale
- **Year 12 Coordinator** – Ms Dianne Robilliard

If you have any questions or queries throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact any of the above staff or myself at the College.

**UNIFORM**

I would like to thank parents and families for their continued support in ensuring that their child is wearing the correct college uniform. If there is an occasion/day where your child is unable to wear their correct uniform, we ask that parents please provide a note to the school to explain this. Students are required to wear a broad brimmed hat while outside at all times. This is in line with our College Sun Smart policy.

**STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Students are required to remain at school for the entire day. If there is an occasion where a student needs to leave the school grounds to attend an appointment, they must take a signed note from their parent/guardian to the college office before school to obtain college approval. Alternatively parents/guardians can call our college attendance line on 5853 2607.

Parents/guardians wishing for their child to come home for lunch may apply to their Year Level Coordinator for a “lunch pass.” Students with a lunch pass have permission to go directly home for lunch and return directly to school within the college lunch break period. It is only students holding a lunch pass that have permission to be out of the school grounds during lunch breaks. Please note that a lunch pass does not permit a student to go down the street at lunchtime. This is with the exception of Year 12 students, who will be issued with lunch passes once permission forms have been returned with the privilege of going down the street. Students must carry their lunch pass with them whilst out of the school grounds. It should be clearly understood that parents/guardians of students holding lunch passes accept complete responsibility for the conduct and safety of these students whilst they are out of the grounds.

Bus travellers must remain on their bus for the entire duration of travel between their bus stops and school. Bus travellers should remain at school once they have arrived.

It is important that this process is followed and supported by all college community members. Please contact the college if you have any questions about these expectations.

**LEARNING CURVE PARENT NEWSLETTER ARTICLE**

Each week I will be including a parent newsletter article from the Learning Curve which is in line with the Secondary student planner. I hope you find these articles valuable.

**Positive Family Teamwork**

When students enjoy transparent, honest and caring relationships with their families, they are happy in themselves and able to look for the good things they are doing. They are also in a position to make the most of family teamwork.

Well functioning families look for what they are doing well. A great exercise is for the whole family to do the free Character Strengths Survey at [www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org), then each member will know their signature and top supporting strengths. Conversations can be about how they can use their strengths together, to achieve what they set out to.
Receiving and accepting feedback from family on how they are travelling enables students to self-assess and then set process self-expectations for themselves. They need regular developmental, non-judgemental feedback.

The adolescent brain is a turbulent place, with the good decision-making centre – the Pre-frontal Cortex – not completely wired up. While they can create emotions just like adults, they don’t yet have the capabilities to consistently control them. This often leads to any feedback being seen as criticism. The key is to treat all of their activities equally; an over-emphasis on school fires up their brain turbulence. Explore how they can use their individual strengths to overcome challenges.

“A loving heart is the truest wisdom." Charles Dickens

**YARD MAINTENANCE WORK**

If you are available to assist with clean up/maintenance at the College could you please contact me by email (walsh.daniel.m@edumail.vic.edu.au) or by phoning the College. We have a number of areas that require attention such as painting, pruning, edging and brushcutting.

**VCE Drama Solo**

Congratulations to Brandon Armstrong for achieving an outstanding result in his VCE Drama Solo performance exam and being selected to audition for this year’s Top Class concert at The Melbourne Recital Centre. Top Class consists of performances from outstanding VCE Performing Arts students from across Victoria. Well done Brandon.

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**COLLEGE NEWS**

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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**New Careers Website for Kyabram P-12 College**

Kyabram P-12 College are launching their new career website found on [www.kyabram-p-12careers.com](http://www.kyabram-p-12careers.com)

The website is simple to use and is a one stop shop to find great resources, links and information on careers, VCE, VCAL, post school options, workplace learning and much more!

Under the tab, **Important Info**, we are posting weekly newsletters to keep you informed about events and opportunities as they arise. Check out the first newsletter that has links to tertiary institutions, different industries and various jobs to inspire career investigation and planning. Happy browsing!
Kyabram P-12 Parents’ Club AGM
Monday 20th February 7pm
In the Primary Staff Room
All Welcome

Year 7 Welcome Night
Thursday 23rd February
5:00pm to 7:00pm
Year 7 Community Building
at the Secondary Campus
This is a great opportunity for families to meet
staff and other members of our school community.
Free Sausage Sizzle and Snow Cones

SWIMMING SPORTS

Excellence Through Opportunity
An opportunity for our Indigenous students has been offered to our school. It will be held after school hours, in Shepparton, at GAMBINA. This will be suited to Indigenous students who would like free tutoring in Maths and English. Sessions begin in April. To make a booking ring: 58217333