



Woody Yaloak Primary School

Website: www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au
 Email: woody.yaloak.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal: Corey Pohlner
 Phone: 53 42 8565

2018 Term Dates

- 30th Jan - 29th Mar
- 16th Apr - 29th Jun
- 16th Jul - 21st Sep
- 8th Oct - 21st Dec

Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565
Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514

Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274
Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478

For Your Diary

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 6TH

- Smythesdale Welcome BBQ 6.15pm

MONDAY 12TH

- Ross Creek Welcome BBQ and Information Evening 6.00pm

THURSDAY 15TH

- Scarsdale Welcome BBQ 5.30pm
- Snake Valley Welcome BBQ 5.30pm

MONDAY 19TH

- School Council Meeting 6.30pm at Snake Valley Campus

MONDAY 26TH

- Whole School P&F Meeting at Smythesdale Campus

PERMISSION FORMS
AND
MONEY DUE

Wednesday 14th Feb
 • Student Information

Principal Message

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to everyone for the start of another school year. I welcome our new families to the school, it is great to see all of our new Foundation students running around with a big smile on their faces. I too have a son who is starting Foundation this year, so I understand what a special time this is for families.

I encourage all our parents to be active in our school, developing partnerships with your child's new teacher and other parents. The positive relationships and processes that are developed at the beginning of the year, will help your child have a successful year.

Even though it is hard for me to be visible all the time over 4 sites, I am always willing to meet parents to help with problems, to receive feedback or simply have a chat, please feel free to call or make an appointment. I have the confidence in my leadership team to be the face at each campus, they are all very approachable and friendly. One strength at Woody Yaloak Primary School is that we have a shared vision, where everyone is working towards the same goals and everything we do, is to help make your child's education a success.

I am looking forward to a happy and successful year at Woody!

SCHOOLS' PRIVACY POLICY

The Department has developed a new Schools' Privacy Policy. Schools are required to let parents know of this policy. Basically the policy outlines how All school staff can, and must, share information about a **student with other staff who 'need to know' that information to enable the school to:**

1. educate the student (including to plan for individual needs or address barriers to learning)
2. support **the student's social and emotional wellbeing and health**
3. fulfil legal obligations, including to:
 - take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm to the student, other students, staff or visitors (duty of care)
 - make reasonable adjustments for a student's disability (anti discrimination law)**
 - provide a safe and secure workplace (occupational health and safety law).

If you require any further information, more detail can be accessed on the Department website.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In this week's newsletter I have included an insert, outlining the process for school council elections for 2018. Nomination forms can be obtained at each campus office.

Timeframe

Notice of election and call for nominations: Monday, 12 February 2018

Closing date for nominations: Monday, 19 February 2018

Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted: Wednesday, 21 February 2018

Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed: On or before Monday, 26 February 2018

Close of ballot: Monday, 5 March 2018

Council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside): On Monday March 19th, we will have our Annual General Meeting to elect our office bearers, followed up an Annual Reporting meeting and a normal school council meeting.

Principal Message Continued

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS CONTINUED

Current School Council

Below I have outlined all of our current 'parent' councillors and when their term ceases.

Andrew Tilly (Scarsdale): started in 2017, term ends in 2019.

Sharon Gibbs (Snake Valley): started in 2016, term ends in 2018.

Paul Bregazzi (Ross Creek): started in 2017, term ends in 2019.

Travis Hobson (Scarsdale): started in 2017, term ends in 2019.

Geoff McLardie (Smythesdale): started in 2017, term ends in 2019.

Robert Crick (Ross Creek): started in 2017, term ends in 2019.

Michelle Smith (Ross Creek): started in 2017, term ends in 2019.

Nicole Humber, replacing Andrew Lambert's term (Snake Valley): started in 2016, term ends in 2018.

As you can see by the list, we have 2 parent category vacancies for 2018. Current councillors can re-nominate as many do. If we have more nominations than positions, we can run a ballot or apply for a change in our standing order. Any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Corey Pehlner
Principal

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

SCHOOL REVIEW

Over the holiday period, we were informed that our school review will take place during term 2, 2018. The Department has changed the process around school reviews, which will be different from the last one in which Woody Yaloak PS was involved. There will be training in February for leadership, to help understand the new process. The actual review will take place over 3 days and will involve leadership, staff, school council, parents and students. The first part of the review will be writing our self-evaluation, which is a reflection on the past 4 years of work, in order to write our new Strategic Plan for the next 4 years.

ATTENDANCE

Over the school holidays Minister for Education, James Merlino announced changes to the School Attendance Guidelines, Government schools must notify parents of unexplained student absence as soon as practicable on the day of absence. Prior to the announcement, Government schools were advised to attempt to make contact with the parent within three days of an unexplained student absence.

We are working with our software program for reporting to enable an SMS system to let parents know of any unexplained absences. We all know the importance of having good attendance records for our students, as it gives them the best possible chance to learn both academically and socially.

If we are able to implement the SMS system for finding out why a child is absent, parents will be able to respond to the text, which will give us the details to update the attendance report, therefore no need to send a hard copy note. In the meantime, some parents may receive calls from teachers asking for a reason for the absence.

CAMPUS UPDATES

PERMISSION FORMS

This year parents will notice the permission forms that are sent home look a little different. Part of this trial includes having pre populated information on the form, so parents will have less information to fill out. This information is sourced automatically through our administration system at school, based on the information parents have given us. It is important to note that when family personal details change for example phone numbers, addresses, email address etc, please contact the school to update your details on our system.

We understand that sometimes children misplace notices or are absent on the day they after sent home. To overcome this we are also looking into having permission forms and absence notices in digital form.

Please note: There is no provision on the "trial" excursion notice to mark "not attending". If forms are not returned by the due date, it is assumed the student is not attending. Excursion notices are sent home with Tuesday's newsletter and are printed on yellow paper. Payment must be made for students to attend.

Sporting Schools

Over the holiday period we have found out that schools are only allowed to offer 3 terms of Sporting Schools in 2018. For this reason there will be no program offered in term 1.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like:

- school camps or trips
- swimming and school-organised sport programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions and incursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. There are two criteria that must be met:

- Criteria 1 (eligibility)
- Criteria 2 (Be of school age and attend a Victorian school)

Payments are:

- \$125 per year for eligible primary school students

Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. Most payments start from March onwards. Applications can be received over term one and two. Payments are for the application year and cannot be claimed for previous years. The CSEF payment cannot be used towards voluntary school charges, books, stationery, school uniforms, before/after school care, or formals/graduations.

Applications for 2018 are now open, through until the end of term 2, 2018. Families can see each campus office for further details on how to apply for this fund.

Conveyance Allowance

What is the conveyance allowance?

The Conveyance Allowance Program (CAP) is a form of financial assistance that helps families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school or campus. It is available to eligible students travelling by public transport, private car and private bus. It is also available to eligible students whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

The Department has provided general eligibility criteria for students seeking a conveyance allowance. It is dependent on the school they attend and where it is located.

Students attending a government or non-government school must:

- attend the closest government or non-government school or campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible
- be enrolled at a school or campus outside Melbourne's metropolitan conveyance boundary
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school or campus
- be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

If you require further information or wish to obtain a application form, please see your campus office.

MIDDLE CAMP - CAMP WYUNA

The year 3/4 students from all campuses will be bussing off to Camp Wyuna - Queenscliff for their camp in the first week of term 2 - Wednesday, April 18th - 20th. During the camp students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety activities that provide plenty of challenges and opportunities to use their thinking and work their way through problems. Expression of interest forms will be sent out Tuesday 13th of February and are due back Wednesday 21st of February. There will be information sent home about prices on the expressions of interest forms.



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 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:

- 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 coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department 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.

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.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

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 one 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.

Department 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.



CARNGHAM LINTON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Family & Registration Day

Junior & Senior

Carngham (Snake Valley) Recreation Reserve

Sunday February 11th 2018

Commencing at 11.30 a.m.

- Free Sausage Sizzle
- Children's Activities
- Netball Activities
- Carngham Crocs v Carngham Linton Footballers
Cricket Match at 1.00 p.m.

All player registration fees paid in full on this day will receive a \$5 discount and will go into a draw to win free club registration fees for 2018!

Eftpos Facility Available

Further enquiries Sam Richardson 0418 856 047



MOUNT CLEAR COLLEGE

Come along to experience the exceptional and unique opportunities our College offers for Years 7-12.

OPEN EVENING: Wednesday 14 February - 6.00 pm

Our Open Evening will showcase our specialty areas and provide an insight into the quality education students are provided at our College.

OPEN MORNINGS: Tuesday 13 & 20 February-9.15 am

Join us to experience our school in action and explore the opportunities available at our College.



SPECIALIST SCIENCE PROGRAM



OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM



EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMING ARTS & MUSIC



EXTENSIVE SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES



MOUNT CLEAR COLLEGE
59 Olympic Ave
Mount Clear VIC 3350

Phone: (03) 5330 1500
Website: mtclearsc.vic.edu.au



Hey Kids "Blue Light Back for 2018"

This is an invitation to all local primary school pupils to attend Ballarat Blue Light's next disco on Friday, 16th February.

We have plenty more prizes to local attractions to give away this disco, including family passes to Sovereign Hill, Ten Pin Bowling & the Ballarat Wildlife Park. So don't forget to ask your parents if you can come along.

Friday 16th February
7PM to 9PM

At Sebastopol RSL Hall, Beverin Street, Sebastopol.

Entry is only \$7 Per Person.

Blue Light Disco is drug, alcohol and weapon free. It's fully supervised and there are No Pass Outs. Children must be dropped off and picked up by a Responsible Adult.

For more information call Leading Senior Constable Des Hudson 0409 865 093
Don't forget to watch out for your photos in 2017 on [facebook.com/ballarattbluelightdisco](https://www.facebook.com/ballarattbluelightdisco)
You can also follow us on Snapchat at [bbluelight](https://www.snapchat.com/add/bbluelight).

We can't wait to see you there!



REGISTRATION DAY

SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY

9am ~ 12pm

Come and train with Netball Victoria Representatives and Senior Smythesdale Bulldogs players.

COME ALONG AND REGISTER THEN JOIN IN THE FUN AND GAMES WITH OUR SPECIAL GUESTS.

Smythesdale Football Oval - Heales Street Smythesdale

A SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND MERCHANDISE WILL ALL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

Any questions call (Footy) Adam Webb on 0417 889 759 or (Netball) Katrina Halloran on 0408 392 785