Dear Parents and Guardians,

**2013 Westbreen Primary School Council Elections**

This week is the start of the School Council Elections process for 2013. Please find below an explanation of this process. If you have any questions regarding School Council do not hesitate to contact me or the School Office.

**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 school 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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school.

- A mandated elected DEECD 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. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire 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.
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 I need to do to stand for election?

*If you decide to stand for election, you may fill in the self nomination form or you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the Parent category or DEECD employee category. Nomination forms may be obtained from the School Office. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the School Office within the time stated on the notice of election.*

(Nominations close Friday 22nd February 2013)

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

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**Westbreen Primary School 2013**

*This document is an outline of the School Council Election process for 2013. The process must be completed on or before 31 March 2013.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Friday 15th February 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Friday 22nd February 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>The date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed</td>
<td>Monday 25th February 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>The date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Thursday 7th March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close of ballot</td>
<td>Thursday 14th March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote count</td>
<td>Friday 15th March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declaration of ballot</td>
<td>Monday 18th March 2013</td>
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Have a wonderful week

*Tony Cerra*

Principal.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK ENDING 13th February, 2013

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2L</td>
<td>Camryn M</td>
<td>For giving 100% in writing this week. Keep up the good work. 😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2B</td>
<td>Grade 12 B</td>
<td>For settling in well. Good job 12 Best.😊😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2P</td>
<td>Dilhan</td>
<td>Giving 100% in all set tasks! Well done.😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 4A</td>
<td>Montana C</td>
<td>For putting lots of effort into all her learning. Aim High Montana!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 4W</td>
<td>Ramy Z</td>
<td>For making a great effort to improve in literacy. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 6A</td>
<td>Grade 5/6A</td>
<td>For working well together. Great job 5/6A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 6C</td>
<td>Grade 5/6C</td>
<td>For all the great work the grade have done this week.</td>
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</table>

School Nurse Visit for Prep students

The school nurse will be visiting the school this Term.
Prep students received a large white envelope earlier this week. Enclosed is a form to be filled in and returned by Tuesday the 19th of February. Please return this form to your child’s teacher as soon as possible to ensure that your child is seen.

Clean Up Australia Day - School Clean Up

Westbreen Primary will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day on Friday the 1st of March. All grades will be working hard to clean up our school and to improve the look of our school grounds. We would greatly appreciate parents to assist on the day.

Please return the form below if you are able to assist.

I .................................................................................................(name)

will be able to assist on Friday 1st of March at ..................................(time)

Thank you, Carla da Silva
The Moreland Council School Holiday program information and enrolment forms will be available for the April 2013 School Holiday Program from Monday 25 February 2013 with a closing date for bookings of Friday 8 March 2013. The program will run from Tuesday 2 April until Friday 12 April 2013. As places are limited and in high demand, please ensure your enrolment forms are forwarded to Council as soon as the booking period commences. Brochures/enrolments forms will be available from Monday 25 February at:

- Local Primary Schools in the municipality;
- Council’s website: [www.moreland.vic.gov.au](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au) and;
- Citizens Services Centres – Monday to Friday between 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.
  - Coburg Offices, 90 Bell Street, Coburg
  - Brunswick Offices, 233 Sydney Road, and
  - Glenroy, 796N Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy

If you have difficulty in accessing the information and enrolment forms please contact Council on Ph: 9240 1111.

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**The Book Exchange**

Just a reminder that the book exchange is still in operation and is located in the Hall Foyer area. Below is a description of how the ‘Book Exchange’ works. Please speak to Michelle Sheppard if you have any questions or feedback in relation to the Book Exchange program.

‘The Book Exchange’ is one way our students can get access to a wide range of fun and exciting reading materials without the expense of purchasing costly books.

The way it works is, when you take a book from the tub to take home, you replace it with one of your own books. You can choose to keep that book, or you can take it home to read for as long as you like, and then bring it back, and exchange it for another book.

Please be very aware that once books are placed in the exchange tub, they become the property of the exchange program and will not be returned to the original owner at any stage. Any books placed into the exchange program should have names crossed out or removed.

‘The Book Exchange’ will operate on an honour system and we trust that the entire community at Westbreen will benefit from having access to a wider range of exciting books to read.

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**GARAGE SALE**

Saturday 16th February

57 Melbourne Avenue cnr Hubert Street Glenroy

8am to 3pm melways ref 17 A 2
Opportunities for Parent Helpers at Westbreen

There are many ways that parents and carers can be involved with their child's school. Please consider some of these options for occasional or regular assistance.

- Assistance with exchanging of books for students, as part of the home reading program.
- Reading with individual children and involvement with some small activity groups such as letter sounds and names, sight words etc.
- Classroom Administrative Tasks – Photocopying, laminating, supplies upkeep (sharpen pencils etc)
- Assistance with the Uniform Shop every Thursday morning.
- The school Canteen on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning.
- PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) for Preps

Oral Language Program in the Junior School – Training will be provided for parents willing to help

- Assistance with set up of equipment and related jobs for Interschool Sports program

All parents/carers intending to help out at school should have their ‘Working with Children’s Check’ card. Assistance can be provided with gaining your ‘Working with Children Check’ card, and it is FREE of charge for all volunteers. Please see Michelle Sheppard or Paula Ainsworth, at school if you need assistance of any kind, or have any further questions.

We are interested in accommodating all parent helpers whether you can assist on a regular basis for an hour or two each week, once or twice a term or just ad hoc times here and there. Any contribution by parents and carers is very much appreciated and valued. Please complete the following, detailing your availability for T1 2013.

PARENT/CARER HELPERS TERM 1, 2013

PARENT/CARER NAME: ..............................................................
AREA OF INTEREST (EG: CLASSROOM, ADMIN, PMP ETC): ......................
AVAILABILITY: ..............................
CONTACT NUMBER: ..............................
Welcome 2013 Preps to ‘Team Westbreen’

Friday 8th March 2013 8.30am

Welcome Breakfast for all of our 2013 Preps

All Prep students and their families are welcome

We are excited to announce that we will be having a special breakfast to welcome our Preps to the first full week of school this year. Our Prep teachers, along with other staff and Grade 6 Buddies are looking forward to officially welcoming our Prep’s and their parents/carers to the Westbreen School Community.

Breakfast will consist of Toast, Cereal, Fresh Fruit and Juice, and will be served in the School Hall by staff, volunteering parents and carers, and some Grade 6 Buddies.

*******Volunteers Needed*******

Grade 1 – 6 Parents needed to Volunteer their time to assist with our 2013 Prep Welcome Breakfast

Friday 8th March from 8.15am – 9.30am

Help needed preparing toast, cereal and fresh fruit

😊 Please see Michelle Sheppard as soon as possible if you can help out 😊
Westbreen Primary School has been doing some exciting work in terms of the manner in which technology is being taught, used and monitored. In classrooms, technological devices such as iPads, computers and interactive whiteboards are being used across the curriculum to support and enhance student learning.

Westbreen Primary School has made a commitment to help develop their students into safe and responsible users of technology by positive role modelling, teaching specific technology skills and strategies to keep students safe online.

In June of last year, Westbreen Primary School registered to participate in eSmart. During the past few months the eSmart Professional Learning Team under the leadership of Karen Wileman and Carla da Silva has been working towards the school achieving eSmart status.

eSmart was developed by The Alannah and Madeline Foundation with the RMIT School of Education, and with the input of a broad range of cybersafety and education experts.

eSmart takes a whole-school approach to wellbeing, improving cybersafety and reducing bullying and cyberbullying. It guides schools to implement strategies to embrace the benefits of technology and reduce risk.

The school now has in place, a whole school research based approach to cybersafety and student wellbeing through the implementation of policies, programs and procedures that are aligned with current philosophies of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), Western Metropolitan Region (WMR).

**The use of digital devices (e.g. mobile phones, iPods, DS’s etc) at school**

With the continuing development of technology and as a result of the eSmart program Westbreen Primary would like to ensure children are protected against unwanted electronic bullying.

As a result, all students must sign in all personal electronic devices upon arrival at the school between 8:45am and 9:00am. They can be collected from the Office at 3:15 p.m.

Please discuss this issue with your child to ensure they are aware of the correct procedure.
## Notices Sent Home

- **Prep Welcome Breakfast 2013**
- **Meet the Teacher night**
- **School Nurse forms for Preps**
- **Canteen list**

### February & March 2013

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<td>Playgroup Interschool sport away</td>
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<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb School Council</td>
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<td>2013 Triskills</td>
<td>Playgroup Interschool sport home</td>
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<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb</td>
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<td>School Photos Family Time 3:15pm to 4:15pm</td>
<td>2013 Triskills</td>
<td>Welcome Breakfast for preps Playgroup Interschool sport home</td>
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<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Mar</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Mar Public Holiday Labour Day NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL</td>
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