



Westbreen Primary School

Newsletter

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Volume 2

Tuesday 6th February, 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was so exciting to get around to all the classrooms over the last week and observe how quickly the children have settled and how well they have adapted to the classroom routines with their new teachers. I also enjoyed hearing all their summer holiday stories! Our Foundation children joined us for their first day yesterday and (despite the wet weather at lunchtime) have only added to the positive feel out amongst the team. I also must congratulate our older students for being so inclusive and caring of not only our new Foundation Students in our school, but of all new students and staff to Team Westbreen. The past week has seen our students regrouping with old friends, forming new relationships and displaying excellent learning behaviours. All students have been re-connecting to the school values and the expectations in the classroom and out in the yard.

Whilst visiting classes, I have witnessed the wonderful connections and learning tasks that we offer and I have been extremely pleased to note that our staff are working hard to ensure that all of our students are thriving in an environment that values and celebrates learning and encourages gratitude and self-esteem. I look forward to a very rewarding and successful year for our Team Westbreen members.

**WELL DONE – YOU MAKE US ALL SO PROUD!!! GREAT WORK TEAM
WESTBREEN**

2024 Westbreen Primary School Council Elections

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 broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at their child's school.
- A mandated elected DET employee member 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.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

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. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the

school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty.
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds.
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest.
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available.
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school.
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage.
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions.
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant
- for which decisions and obey the law.
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

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 DET employee category.

To request a Nomination form, you can either obtain a form from the General Office or email the school (Westbreen.ps@education.vic.gov.au) from Wednesday 7th February. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the School Office by Tuesday 13th February 2024.

You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt following the receipt of your completed nomination.

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

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 6th March 2024. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026.	Six (6)
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026.	Three (3)

WESTBREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

PROCESS and TIMETABLE 2024

This document is an outline of the School Council Election process for 2024

The process must be completed on or before 31 March 2024

EVENT	DATE
Notice of election and call for nominations	Tuesday 6 th February 2024
Closing date for nominations 4.00pm	Tuesday 13 th February 2024
The date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed	Friday 16 th February 2024
The date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Tuesday 27 th February 2024
Close of ballot 4.00pm	Tuesday 5 th March 2024
Vote count	Wednesday 6 th March 2024
Declaration of ballot	Friday 8 th March 2024
Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	Monday 18 th March 2024
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Monday 18 th March 2024

Have a wonderful week.

Jason Kenny

Acting Principal

TUESDAY 20th & THURSDAY 22nd FEBRUARY is INTRODUCING MY CHILD CONFERENCES BETWEEN 3:30 & 6:40pm bookings can be made through XUNO later this week.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

1H	Nichole Z	For always trying her best to blend and write words. Well done!
1S	Whole Class	For a wonderful start to the year. 2024 is going to be awesome!
1T	Whole Class	For making a fantastic & positive start to 2024.
2F	Whole Class	For an amazing start to 2024 full of learning, fun and connecting with each other! Well Done!
2L	Whole Class	For brilliant Start to 2024. Well done 2L!
2V	Whole Class	For making fantastic connections with their new classmates and learning. Great start to 2024.
34C	Whole of the 3/4C Class	For developing a dynamic learning environment where everyone can learn by making quality connections with their teacher and each other.
3 4H	Whole Class	For making a fantastic start to 2024. Looking forward to a year of learning, growing and connecting together in 3/4H!
3 4O	Whole Class	For connecting with each other in a positive way and making an amazing start to 2024.
3 4P	Whole Class	For a fabulous start to the 2024 school year and new creating positive
3 4Z	Whole Class	For a wonderful start to 2024! Well done 3/4Z!
5 6D	Whole Class	To the awesome students in 5/6D for a super start to 2024!
5 6N	Whole Class	To the amazing 5/6N for a brilliant start to 2024.
5 6W	Whole Class	For the sensational beginning to our year as 5/6W
5 6Z	Whole Class	To the magnificent 5/6Z for our connected start to 2024.

Please note the above Students of the Week will be presented their certificate at assembly on Wednesday 10th February, 2024

Westbreen Community News

Welcome back to school for 2024.....

It's been wonderful to see the children have settled into their new classrooms and are enjoying being back at school with their friends. I have loved seeing our students back for the new school year, and so many have grown up over the holidays, some nearly as tall as me!

Foundation Students joined us yesterday!

Welcome to all our 2024 Foundation students who started their Primary School education at Team Westbreen yesterday. We had lots of excitement and smiles, we had some that started the day a little unsure, but finished the day happy, and a few that had tears at the start of the day, but finished the day with smiles.

Welcome to all our new 2024 Foundation families!

Only 3 mums accepted my offer of a tissue after dropping their child at their classroom. It is such a huge milestone for your children to be starting school, and with that comes many mixed emotions. Doesn't matter if it's your first child, second, or 5th child. Rest assured they will be well looked after here at Team Westbreen.

Wednesdays are big at Team Westbreen, and this is why...

Assembly – we invite you to come and join us at our weekly assembly in the Specialist Centre after the bell goes at 9:00am. There are seats available at the back of the Specialist Centre for you to use and get you out of our extremely unpredictable summer weather.

Our School Captains run our assembly and we encourage our school community to join us for the fun. Will be interesting to see if Mr Kenny has any new jokes to share with us tomorrow...

Chat & Chew – you are invited to come into our Staff Room after assembly to join myself, and any other available members of Team Westbreen, for a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and a chat. It's not formal, just casual way to meet other members of our community and members of Team Westbreen, as they come and go.

Family Time is back! The weather is looking good for Wednesday afternoon so we are planning to do some Chalk Art outside under the big blue shade sail. I hope lots of families, including younger siblings, join me from 3:15pm to 4:15pm for some artistic fun! **Please note: all children that attend Family Time need to be supervised by their parent, grandparent or carer.**

To our new families, Assembly, Chat & Chew and Family Time are great ways to meet other members of our Westbreen community and for your children to make some new friends.

Look forward to seeing you throughout the week.

Kerry Parfett

Community & Enrolment Facilitator

kerry.parfett@education.vic.gov.au



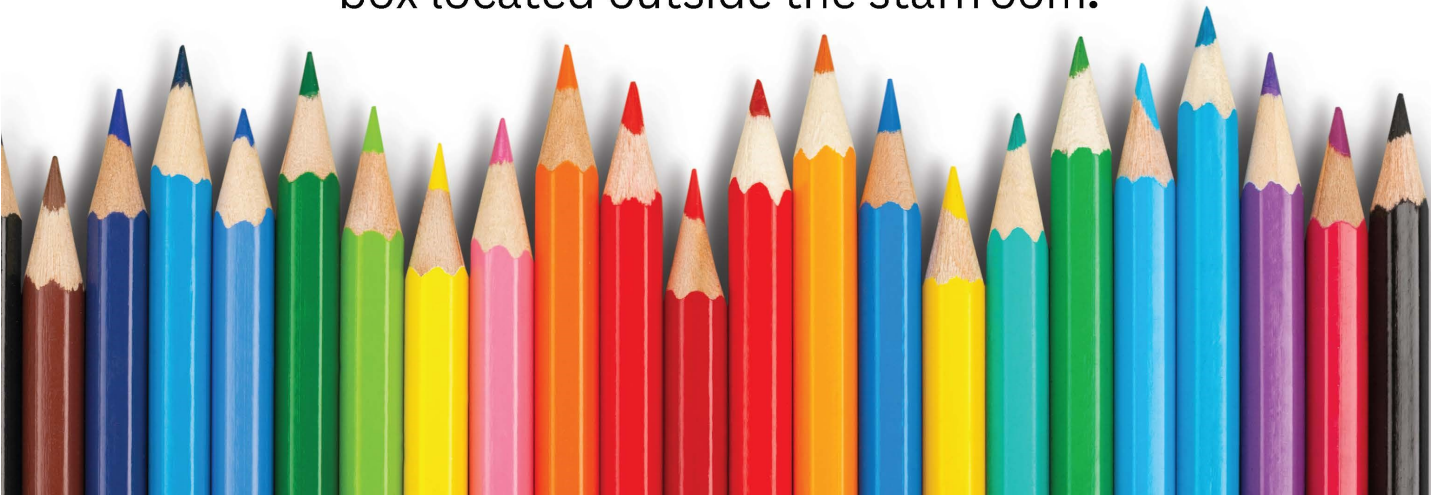
The Pencils Project

Collects preloved pencils, pencil cases/their contents and repackages them to kids in need in Australia and overseas.

Please consider donating your preloved items:

- Pencil cases
- Pencils (coloured/grey lead), Twistable crayons
 - Rulers, Erasers, Sharpeners, Scissors
 - Glue sticks, Blu-tack, Adhesive tape
- Texas/Markers, Highlighters, Pens (working only)
- Exercise books/Scrapbooks/Colouring books (even partly used)

Donations can be dropped at Westbreen Primary School, in the box located outside the staffroom.



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SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY
FROM 9.30AM -11.30AM

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED
OPPOSITE 125 GLENROY RD GLENROY

REGISTER:



@mulberrygarden



@MCGG

www.mcgg.com.au

Thank you!



Visual Arts: Crochet Unit

During Term 4, the students in Year 3/4 had the opportunity to learn simple crochet skills from Sophia Michalopoulos (George's mum from 3 / 4P). Sophia kindly dedicated her time twice a week to work with the students in small groups to learn about tying knots, using a crochet hook, casting on, and continuing a simple stitch plus maintaining tension with the thread. **Fun** was had by all the students as they **proudly** made short and long chins, friendship bracelets, and chunky scrunchies. We are proud that all students had a go and were **persistent, patient, and persevered** until they got it! Students also had a go at finger knitting, French knitting, and plaiting. **Thank you**, Sophia and Lydia, (Mario's mum in 5/6 Z) for volunteering their time in the art room.



Visual Arts

The art room always welcomes donations of clean, recycled objects that can be used to create amazing artwork. For example...

<p>newspapers</p>	<p>magazines</p>	<p>Old wrapping paper & cards</p>
		
<p>Old arts and craft/ tinkering/ haberdashery</p>	<p>cog & gears, for example, old watch parts, small objects from electrical devices</p>	<p>bottle tops – assorted sizes and colours</p>
		
<p>cereal boxes (big and small)</p>	<p>plastic bottles – various sizes</p>	<p>egg cartons</p>
		
<p>wool</p>	<p>CD's or vinyl records</p>	<p>paper towel tubes</p>
		

If you have any bits and pieces for recycling but you are not sure if they will be useful in the art room, please email Christine Mahlis through XUNO to confirm.

Please bring all recycled items in a bag and drop them off to the Art Room. Thank you, Ms Mahlis 😊

February 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 	2 	3	4
5*First day for Foundation 2024 *First day for Canteen	6*Breakfast club	7*Breakfast club *No Foundation students @ school	8*Breakfast club	9	10	11
12	13*Breakfast club	14*Breakfast club *No Foundation students @ school	15*Breakfast club	16*Interschool Sport Grade 5/6 away	17	18
19*School Council meeting	20*Breakfast club *Introducing my child conferences 3:30 to 6:40pm	21*Breakfast club *No Foundation students @ school	22*Breakfast club *Introducing my child conferences 3:30 to 6:40pm	23	24	25
26	27*Breakfast club	28*Breakfast club *No Foundation students @ school	29*Breakfast club			

March 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1*Interschool Sport Grade 5/6 home	2	3
4	5*Breakfast club	6*Breakfast club	7*Breakfast club	8*Interschool Sport Grade 5/6 away	9	10
11*LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	12*Breakfast club	13*Breakfast club	14*Breakfast club	15*Interschool Sport Grade 5/6 home	16	17
18*School Council	19*Breakfast club	20*Breakfast club	21*Breakfast club	22	23	24
25*School Photos	26	27	28*3/4 Continents of South America and Africa EXPO *Last day of Term 1 Finishing @ 2:15pm	29*GOOD FRIDAY	30	31