

2018

2019
Term 1

FEBRUARY

Thursday 7th February
Elevate for VCE Parents
@7-8pm

Wednesday 13th February
Rest day for Prep
Students
School Council Meeting

Friday 15th February
Primary Cluster Swimming
Sports @ Hopetoun

Wednesday 20th February
Rest day for Prep
Students
Parents Club Meeting

Wednesday 21st February
HP12 Swimming Sports

Wednesday 27th February
Rest Day for Prep
Students

'Big Breakfast'



Our annual Big Breakfast was well received again this year, with good food, good weather and even better company!

Hopetoun P-12 College

Phone 5083 3203

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Email: hopetoun.p12@edumail.vic.gov.au

Hopetoun P-12 College is a Child Safe School

Principal's Report

Big Breakfast

It was a pleasant morning earlier this week when our school community came together for our annual welcome to the new school year. Shiarne Petschel, our school captain, extended a welcome to parents, students and teachers as the new academic year gets underway. Many families and friends met on the front steps last Tuesday morning to have breakfast, have a chat, meet new members of the school community and have a 'catch-up' in readiness for what promises to be another productive school year. New teachers, Miss Amanda Cook, Mrs Tracy Bound and Mr Malcolm Smith were welcomed as well.

Following the informal breakfast, parents were invited to join the classes for their morning assemblies. Many parents took the opportunity to drop in and have a look before heading off to their commitments. Parents of VCE (Units 3-4) attended an information session immediately following the Big Breakfast. They heard a general overview of VCE followed by specific information about each of the subjects.

It is hoped that the Big Breakfast welcome to the school year becomes an annual feature of our school calendar.

Welcome

As noted above, Mr Malcolm Smith has joined the teaching staff at Hopetoun P-12 College. Mr Smith will be working with us each Tuesday throughout Term 1 teaching instrumental music as well as teaching music classes. Mr Smith also works at other schools around the Southern Mallee-Wimmera area.

Student Responsibility Positions

Following House meetings earlier this week a number of students were nominated and elected into House responsibility positions. Congratulations to Kiana Marshman, Dallas Walsh, and Cody Frankel (Yarrara), Shiarne Petschel, Bailey Hofmaier and Jaie Carter (Banksia) on their election. The roles are important and effective student leaders in these sports positions are essential for the efficient and effective running of the House system. This is especially true for the running of our swimming and athletic sports.

We are also in the process of establishing our Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC was restructured last year and operated extremely effectively, adding the important element of student voice to our school. This year we are hoping that the students can have more input through the SRC hence it is important for students to put themselves forward to stand for positions on the SRC. SRC representatives need to have a clear view on how the school can support their learning as well as improve the physical environment and they need to be able to represent the views of other students. The election process began today.

We are also commencing the process of electing a Junior School Captain. It is anticipated that all student responsibility positions will be finalised by Monday 18th February and formalised at assembly on Tuesday 19th February.

School Council

Our first meeting of College Council for 2019 takes place next Wednesday. We have a series of meetings on Wednesday night, commencing with Finance Committee at 5.30pm followed by Grounds and Buildings Committee at 6pm and College Council at 6.30pm. As usual there are a number of important items on the agenda for each of the meetings. This year we are determined to "Finish the Front" which means we want to complete the projects we have started or are in the planning process for the front of the school. This "Finish the Front" challenge includes completion of the front oval project (pump shed, tank and surrounds), progress on a new visitors' car park in the teardrop (bus loop area), drainage and enclosure of the ramp into the primary classrooms.

College Council elections are now underway. Information is available with this newsletter.

Swimming Program

Our annual swimming program is well underway with students in the Primary setting and many of the Secondary students enjoying classes at the pool. The Primary cluster swimming sports take place late next week and our intra-school House swimming sports take place on Thursday 21st February. These are always great events with a lot of friendly rivalry between the two Houses. Let's hope the weather is kind and the competition is exciting.

Homework Survey

Our College Council Policy Committee is currently working on developing a coherent and meaningful policy on homework. Many of you who attended the Big Breakfast completed a survey, indicating your views on homework. Homework has been a controversial topic for many years with some people taking the position that there should be no homework to the other extreme where there should be extensive homework set for every year level. Balance is best. There were 17 responses to the homework survey; 15 in favour and two against. Some comments in favour included; "Good routine from early age", "Forms good habits for later years", "I would like to see reading across all years levels really pushed". There was a fair degree of consistency in responses as to the amount of time students should be expected to allocate to homework.

The results of the survey will be tabled at tonight's Policy Committee meeting and will assist in developing a coherent policy.

Mr Graeme Holmes

Principal

Parents Club Meeting

Wednesday
20th February

In the library

Commencing at
7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

REMINDER



Prep students are not required at school on a Wednesday until

WEDNESDAY
6TH MARCH

Homework Club

will commence on
Thursday
28th February

3-20pm until
4-00pm

Prep—Year 6
Year 7 –12

OVAL MOWING ROSTER

FEBRUARY: Ross Brown

Brad Petschel

Jamie Glare

MARCH: Michael Grace

Shane Michael

Adam Morey

Check out Hopetoun
P-12 College Facebook
page

facebook

SPORTS NEWS – From Mr Robins

House Captains have been elected for 2019, with two senior and one Junior Captain representing each house. Congratulations to those elected. The 2019 House Captains are:

Yarrara

- Kiana Marshman
- Dallas Walsh
- Cody Frankel

Banksia

- Shiarne Petschel
- Bailey Hofmaier
- Jaie Carter

SML Cluster Swimming

The Cluster Sports are first up next Friday, which involves some of the Primary students. Green permission forms and information will be sent home with those students this week. Please return these permission forms by next **Wednesday 13th February** at the very latest. Parents are most welcome and encouraged to attend this event!!

Upcoming sport dates (Term 1):

- **February 15th – Southern Mallee Lakes Cluster swimming carnival @ Hopetoun (Primary)**
- February 21st – Hopetoun P-12 College house swimming sports (P – 12)
- March 4th – Little Desert swimming @ Dimboola (Secondary)
- March 6th – Little Desert swimming @ Horsham (Primary)
- March 22nd – Greater Western swimming @ Horsham (Primary & Secondary)
- April 2nd – Hopetoun P-12 College house Athletic Sports

Reminder to all P-10 students to bring their bathers for their PE & Sport classes

Year P-3: Tuesday (Period 3 & 4)

Year 4-6: Monday (Period 5 & 6)

Year 7-8: Thursday (Period 3 & 4)

Year 9-10: Tuesday (Period 1 & 2)

Sport (Year 7-9 only): Wednesday (Period 5 & 6)

Wills & Powers of Attorney Information Session

The Murray Mallee Community Legal Service is delivering a general information session to the local community covering:

***Wills
Powers of Attorney
Medical Treatment Decision Makers
Advance Care Directives***



The session will cover brief information about wills with the focus being on Powers of Attorney and changes to legislation in March 2018 regarding Medical Treatment Decision Makers and Advance Care Directives.

Please join us to learn more about planning for your future

***Wednesday 27th February
5pm***

Hopetoun & District Neighbourhood House

Please RSVP to Cindy by **Monday 25th February**
Ph: 5083 3408 or email info@hopehouse.org.au

SRC – 2019

What is SRC?

SRC stands for Student Representative Council. This is group of students that represent student voice at the College. Students that are elected to be on SRC are representing the student body. It is the platform for suggesting ideas and improvements the students would like to see around our College.

What does it involve?

SRC have meetings, usually once a month. These meetings are sometimes held during lunch times and sometimes held during Pastoral Care.

SRC organize fundraising events throughout the year. The SRC then choose what do to with the money that they raised; it may go to a charity, or towards a project they may have for the College.

If there is a fundraising event being organized, representatives are expected to assist with the organization and running of the event.

Being part of SRC means that your ideas, or concerns, can be heard. It is your opportunity to be part of the school community that works towards improving our College.

How do you become part of SRC?

Fill out the Expression of Interest Form (yellow) that you received in Year level assembly and place into the box out the front of the General Office. (More forms are available from the office) Forms must be handed in by Thursday 14 February, 9am.

The candidates' forms will be reviewed by a panel and the announcement of SRC members will be announced Friday 15 February.

Need Help?

If you are unsure what to write on the form, please see a staff member that you feel comfortable with to assist you.

Any other queries, please see Mrs. Hallam.



Helping others has never been so cheeky!

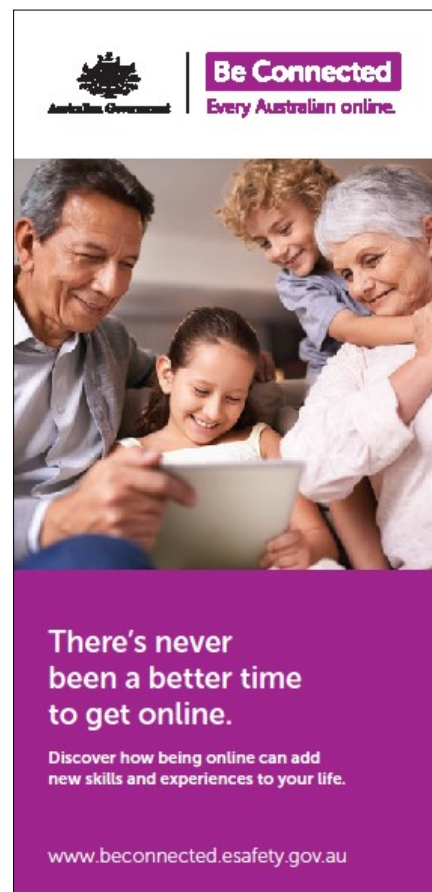
Pinch your shampoo and other toiletries on your next hotel stay... and help us provide access to personal hygiene products for thousands of disadvantaged Australians each week!

Your office collector is
Hopetoun & District Neighbourhood House

Or drop them in the box at the
Newsagents

For more information:
www.pinchapoo.org.au or find us on Facebook.

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VICTORIA POLICE WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM 2019

Applications for Terms 3 and 4 of the 2019 Police Work Experience Program will open from midday on

MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2019

This is a fantastic opportunity for secondary school students considering a career within Victoria Police. Students are placed at participating police stations and department units where they will have the opportunity to observe and learn from our Police Officers, Protective Services Officers, Protective Custody Officers and VPS personnel.

Applications will close 4.00pm Friday 15th March 2019 – No applications will be accepted after this time. Students must be a minimum of 15 years of age at the time of placement and completing Year 10 or above.

Placements are scheduled between 15 July 2019 through to 29 November 2019. Placements will take place for one week only. Applications will only be considered if all required forms are completed correctly and signed accordingly.

If interested, please contact Mrs Robertson – there are other conditions etc. to be considered. **Applications will open on Monday February 11th 2019.**

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## School Council Elections

It is that time of year when School Council elections take place. School Councils play an important role in determining the direction and goals for the school. Hopetoun P-12 College Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month. We usually start with sub-committee meetings from 5.30pm with the main College Council meeting starting at 6.30pm. The College Council meeting is time-limited to finish at 7.30pm.

**Parent Representatives.** This year there are four parent vacancies on School Council created by the expiration of terms for Simon Cook, Jamie Frankel, Natasha Anderson and Ross Brown. All are eligible for re-nomination. Further, Angela Reid can no longer continue on Council due to other commitments and has unfortunately resigned her position. This means there is a one-year vacancy in the parent category as well as the four two-year positions listed above.

**Staff Representatives.** There are two vacancies in the staff category created by the expiration of terms for Leah Papadakis and Nicki Bellinger. Both are eligible for re-nomination. Further, Dave Baulch has relinquished his position hence there is a one-year vacancy in the staff category.

**Student Representatives.** There is one vacancy in the student category created by the expiration of term for Tahlia Jones. Tahlia is eligible for re-nomination.

### Nomination/Election Dates

Nominations for the above positions close Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

I have included School Council responsibility, nomination and election information with this newsletter. Contact the College for nomination forms.

If you have any questions please contact me at the College on 50833203.

Mr Graeme Holmes

*Principal*

## SCHEDULE 4: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

### Hopetoun P-12 College

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **18/02/2019**.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on **4/3/2019**

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 2019<br>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 | <b>4</b>                     |
|                     | From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019<br>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020 | <b>1</b><br>(1 year vacancy) |
| DET employee member | From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019<br>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 | <b>2</b>                     |
|                     | From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019<br>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020 | <b>1</b><br>(1 year vacancy) |
| Student member      | From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019<br>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 | <b>1</b>                     |

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.

Graeme Holmes  
Principal

# 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.

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.



**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.**