Today I call for nominations for our School Council Elections. This process is open to all parents in the school and I encourage any parent wishing to nominate to contact me immediately. If you decide to stand for election, you can self nominate or arrange to be nominated and seconded by persons who are eligible for the same category as you will stand for. I can provide information about these categories. The appropriate nomination forms are available at the Office from Tuesday 23\textsuperscript{th} Feb.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the Principal (or front office) within the time stated on the notice of election.

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

\textbf{This is the timeline which will be used}

Notice of election and call for nomination ……………22\textsuperscript{nd} February 2016
Close of nomination…………………………………………10\textsuperscript{th} March 2016
Display list of candidates………………………………….11\textsuperscript{th} March 2016
Prepare ballot papers and distribute on ………… ....11\textsuperscript{th} March 2016 (if required)
Close of ballot………………………………………………..18\textsuperscript{th} March 2016 (if required)
Count votes & declare ballot………………………… 18\textsuperscript{th} March 2016 (if required)

New council becomes operational from the day following the declaration of the poll. School Council AGM to appoint committee members on \textbf{Monday 21\textsuperscript{st} March} who will then elect office bearers at meeting chaired by Principal.

First normal meeting chaired by President follows as soon as convenient.

\textbf{‘It’s Not OK To Be Away’ and ‘It’s Great If You’re Not Late’}
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 as long as they are not employed at the 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 all 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.

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 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 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.

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.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

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.

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.**

**Retiring School Council Members for 2014 – 2016**

- Mellissa McMullan
- Rodney Martin
- Catherine Blaby
- Karen Barbary
- Di Clarke

* All retiring school council members are welcome to renominate for another 2 year term

**School Council Members for 2015 – 2017**

- Craig Beasy
- Sally Parsons
- Nikki Milner
- Simon Rohde
- Jeanette Hards (DET)
- Mark Rogerson (DET)
- Dennis Mitchell – Principal
Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Ranfurly Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on 10th March 2016.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent/ Community member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>......3......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>......1......</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Dennis Mitchell - Principal
Ranfurly PS