



# School Council Update

Sept - Oct 2016

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## 2016 School Council Dates

1. 11th May
2. 15th June
3. 17th August
4. 14th September
5. 19th October
6. 16th November
7. TBC December

## Contact Us

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## Thank you for your input!

Every 4 years schools review their performance and set a new 4 year plan. (Strategic Plan). The purpose of a review year is to evaluate and diagnose our performance, prioritise and set goals and then develop a plan that we can implement and monitor each year.

We have received some very useful and informative feedback from the forums, interviews and focus groups that has been collated and now shared at school council.

It has been pleasing to see so many positive comments and also some new ideas for the school to consider during the review.

We all talk to many parents in our roles as your representatives, so seeing the topics from our discussions appearing in the feedback reconfirms what you would like us to reinforce during the review and more importantly the planning. Kevin and the leadership team will set a vision, strategy and operational plan for the next 4 years.

### *Hot Topics from our last meeting...*

Our last 2 meetings have covered a variety of topics. In both meetings we conducted our usual review of the reports from each sub committee and also the Principal's report (which is very similar to the messages Kevin puts into the weekly newsletter). We then also covered a number of general discussion topics, some from the Leadership Team and some that were raised by parents.

In **September:** we discussed a range of policies and documents related to Child Safe in line with the Department of Education requirements. These included things like Child Safe Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Recruitment processes and risk management across the school.

Term 4 will also see an OH&S Audit of the school, a big responsibility often undertaken quietly in the background, however this work is very important to ensure our facilities and policies are always at or above the appropriate standards.

Anaphylaxis was a big topic following a number of occurrences in the school in recent times. On each occasion the staff managed the situation extremely well and students were also able to assist their classmates in the playground. Each year the staff undertake first aid refresher courses, including Anaphylaxis.

We also heard positive feedback from the recent Cancer Council puppet shows that were offered to students to support an awareness and understanding of the illnesses that can sometimes affect families and friends.

The School Leadership team is in the process of interviewing for teaching positions that will become available in 2017, with many excellent candidates putting themselves forward for consideration.

A desire for more science programs to be available (in addition to the afterschool sports programs which were mentioned in the last update) was raised and will be discussed with the teaching staff. An after school science program began this term.

From a building and grounds perspective there will be an extension later this year to the "data room" to enable it to be used as a classroom in 2017.

Finally, a wrap up from the Colour Crazy Day included an overwhelmingly positive response from the entire school community. Students, teachers, families and friends of the school were thrilled with the day. Apart from all the teamwork, positive energy, and memories made, we also raised around \$7,500 for the school and started some ongoing community connections with local business. Other schools have shown an interest in learning more about our fantastic day so we are sharing the planning and ideas with them so they can enjoy a similar experience.

In **October:** we were presented with the 2016 Naplan data analysis. Always an interesting view into the work our school does with our children, understanding where they have areas of strength and where there are opportunities for improvement across the various cohorts. It is fantastic to listen to the way in which this data is used by our teaching staff to better understand the students needs and then put strategies in place.

Overall the results continue to be very strong which in itself can be a challenge when they are looking for areas of improvement however this will be discussed in more detail during the upcoming school review in November.

Key points to note from the results were: Year 3 and Year 5 are both significantly above the state average in all areas and Year 5 results were the second highest score in reading, writing and spelling APS has ever achieved! Well done to the students and their teachers.

The school has started to prepare for the strategic plan review. A self-evaluation document has been completed highlighting APS has much to celebrate in terms of achievements across the school by staff, students and the community. The report will be provided to the official reviewer in October and the official review days involving the Leadership Team, School Council President and Department of Education Reviewers is planned for November.

The Child Safe Standards action plan (Based on 7 Child Safe Standards) has been completed with implementation this month.

A proposal for a Little Athletics (LAPS) Program was presented for consideration. The LAPS program comes to the school and can pitch lessons to all classes. It can be an add on or built in to part of current curriculum, something we will discuss further with Jayme Morris as he plans for 2017.

Securing a Premiership cup visit was an exciting announcement. The cup will come to the school on the 25th November for one hour from 10am.

We have had some strong weather lately and a few parent requests for improvements to school grounds so shade sail replacement, mulch for the playgrounds, tree stump removal and concreting to level out area between ICT lab and portables were all approved following staff OH&S representative and site manager inspections.

The Family and Friends sub committee reported the recent Father's Day Stall was very successful and they are now busy planning the October Disco.

The Altona RSL has once again offered to fund 2 students to attend a camp at Portsea over the 2017 Christmas break, a fantastic example of our ongoing community partnerships and support.

The interview process has been completed for the 2 new graduate teacher positions and a Leading Teacher appointment for 2017.

As a follow up to the recent Peer Study Research, staff undertook professional learning in October facilitated by Professor Vicki Anderson from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. The research is based on the development of an upcoming app which will measure student's social skills.

Our Grade 3 students spent 3 days at Camp Wilkin with feedback from the staff, students and volunteers all being very positive. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who attended. Our Grade 4 students headed off to Camp Wilkin for a 3 day camp later in October.

Monday 31st October is a pupil free day with staff involved in report writing.

## *Councilor Spotlight*

Each issue we will feature some of our fantastic Councilors so you can learn more about us.



**CLAIRE CARSON** has 2 children at APS. Domenic is in (5/6 AC) & Holly in (4F). She is an architect with almost 20 years' experience in designing public buildings. Predominantly her work has focused on educational facilities, master planning and designing schools for the Department of Education and independent schools across Victoria so her insights are invaluable. She has served on Kinder committees at Altona West and Altona and has been a member of the APS school council for the last year. Claire has contributed to APS in various roles over the past seven years, from classroom help through to concert costumes, art show pieces, Mother's/Father's Day stalls, excursions. "I have been very pleased in our time here to watch the range of extra-curricular activities grow and think the students benefit immensely from having these options readily available to them, I value the role of

School Council as an important part of the school-home partnership. I believe that it gives the school leadership team an opportunity to present their values and goals for the future of the school and allows for an input of ideas from the broader school community.”

## *Our next meeting in November...*

In the meantime your child’s teacher, the lovely ladies in the office, Kevin, Nicole or Debbie can also assist with any questions or enquiries.

We hope you enjoyed reading more about the School Council and would love to hear any feedback or ideas that you may have.

Kind Regards,

**Alexis Beckwith**  
**School Council President**

## *Who is on our School Council?*

<b>2016 School Council</b>	<b>Finance Committee</b>	<b>Policy Committee</b>	<b>Sustainability, Building and Grounds Committee</b>	<b>Family &amp; Friends Committee</b>
<b>Alexis Beckwith - President</b>	Kevin Enright Shelley Golz	Debbie Galvin Nicole Fridey	Kevin Enright Claire Carson	Kylie Farr Rebecca Letson
<b>Peter Roberts - Vice President</b>	Ekrem Jeka Peter Roberts	Karen Hudson Julie Giles	Karen Hudson	Prats Chebolu Debbie Galvin
<b>Claire Carson</b>		Liz Brown		
<b>Ekrem Jeka</b>				
<b>Karen Hudson</b>				
<b>Prats Chebolu</b>				
<b>Rebecca Letson</b>				
<b>Tim Hargreaves</b>				
<b>Nicole Fridey</b>				
<b>Debbie Galvin</b>				
<b>Kevin Enright</b>				