



School Council Update.

March - May 2017

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2017 School Council Dates

1. 15th March
2. 10th May
3. 21st June
4. 16th August
5. 6th September
6. 18th October
7. 8th November

Kick start to the year!

Kick starting the year has been very busy for everyone and that includes the School Council. We have focused on completing the elections and welcoming our new members into the team.

With all the changes, we have focused on getting to know each other, settling into our various roles and learning more about what has happened over the last year and what is yet to come in 2017.

Following last year's strategic review, our [Annual Implementation Plan \(AIP\)](#) and Annual Report has now been completed. The focus for this year includes:

- Improving student resilience through using the concept of the Growth Mindset.
- Numeracy as a key area of improvement for 2017 across the school.
- Increasing the year 3 – 5 growth in NAPLAN over 25 - 30% in all areas.
- Improving student attendance.
- Maintaining or improving our Student engagement and Staff survey data.

Councilor Spotlight

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

CHELSEA HUGHES



I'm Chelsea Hughes, and my daughter Ruby is in grade 1 this year.

I'm on the School Council representing the Friends and Families Committee as their current President.

I am interested in finding new ways to engage parents in school activities and issues and want to ensure their voice is heard on school matters.

I am an active member of my community and am on the Board of West Welcome Wagon, a not-for-profit charity that provides material aid to asylum seekers in Melbourne's West. I work as a Community Engagement Librarian in a

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public library and am passionate about connecting people with information and learning opportunities.

I am proud to be an APS parent because the school administration and staff make me feel like I am very much part of a team when it comes to educating my child.

If any parents would like to contact me to discuss anything related to School Council or the Friends and Families Committee, please feel free to contact me on:

- Mob: 0416 366 962
- Email: chelseahughes@gmail.com

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 **March**: the election of all office bearers and sub-committee members was carried unanimously.

Chelsea provided some insights into the planning for the Family & Friends Committee, which included electing their new president, goals for this year and pushing for a better attendance ahead of a very busy month of introducing themselves to the school community (prep afternoon tea, Facebook group, newsletter, F&F board). The feedback so far from the school community has been positive.

School Camps for 2017 were discussed, and decided to stay as a two week split camp due to numbers, students attending with their classroom teacher and allowing classroom programs to run smoothly. Constructive feedback related to the School swimming carnival was also tabled.

The Curriculum days for 2017 that were approved last year were discussed in more detail. Focus for each varies, from developing the relationship between school and home (Parent teacher meetings) through to full day professional development for staff based on high level instructional teaching. As we are trying to achieve low variation of instruction and learning between each grade and 'high growth' in each area of NAPLAN data the leadership team felt it was very important to have all staff enabled with one clear consistent approach adopted across the school. This is in line with our new strategic plan.

The indicative school cash budget and fundraising events for the year is underway and will be finalized for the next meeting and the Art Show dates were set (23rd-26th August).

The Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) and Annual Report were explained by Kevin to the team (focus areas highlighted at the beginning of the update) and the results of the OHS audit showed there are some areas that we will need to improve on

but nothing too big. The OH&S officer was very complementary of how well the school did. Tammy's work was highlighted by the auditor.

In **May**: we discussed the positive impact the growth mindset approach is having on their classroom activities, reinforcing the importance of investing in school wide development for the staff in the recent curriculum days. The results of this approach and training will be communicated to parents at every opportunity to celebrate the successes. The impending purchase of new school readers and the expanded robotics program including ex-students of the school was warmly received by the Council.

We briefly discussed the addition of items to the approved uniform items, such as rugby tops and fleece vests. It was agreed to check whether this type of addition is both feasible and desired by the school community before any decisions made to add an additional item.

A number of policies were discussed and re-approved for the year with some suggested inclusions about what actions parents can take should they have an issue.

Building Sustainability and Grounds sub-committee has not formed for 2017 and it would be ideal to involve members of the Friends and Families Committee (whose fundraising focus for 2017 is heavily weighted towards structural projects around the school) and parents involved in the produce swap initiative. It was agreed that a call for members for the sub-committee would be communicated through the school newsletter.

Chelsea Hughes was welcomed to School Council as the Community Member and amongst the Family and Friends Committee report and activities the upcoming school disco was briefly discussed, specifically the need to have a quiet area for children with sensory issues to go to and information provided to parent volunteers regarding assisting children with sensory issues.

An exciting activity around the school Landscaping Projects as discussed in detail, costs, contributions from a sponsor and agreement to go ahead with the project was approved with other grounds work involving footpaths, bitumen, fencing, courts going out to tender.

How the school currently obtains feedback from parents and how these processes can be improved was raised. It was noted a survey is conducted annually by the Department of Education who make a random selection of 10% of families to survey. It was also noted the Facebook group is operating as a good forum for feedback and parents are also encouraged to feedback to the school via email or in person at the office. It was agreed that further communication to parents would be useful regarding what issues are discussed by School Council and what issues could be addressed through other areas such as directly with the School Office or with teachers, as well as opportunities to provide feedback to the school.

The Compass Program has been a slow roll-out to implementation, including training of teachers. Parent information for logging in will be live in Term 2 and

add-on features will be utilised following the initial roll outs. The school newsletter will also be revamped following the introduction of Compass.

A proud moment was tabling an email received from the Hobsons Bay Council praising our students for their contact regarding safety surrounding school crossing. Similarly, it was noted prospective parent feedback was that student captains participating in school tours are knowledgeable and a great representation of the school to potential families.

Who is on our School Council?

2017 School Council	Finance Committee	Policy Committee	Sustainability, Building & Grounds Committee	Family & Friends Committee
Alexis Beckwith (President)	Aaron Hunt	Nicole Frیدهy	TBC	Chelsea Hughes
Chris Graham (Vice President)		Debbie Galvin		
Rebecca Letson (Secretary)		Peter Sheehan		
Victoria Cushing				
Peter Sheehan				
Chelsea Hughes				
Monique David				
Aaron Hunt				
Kevin Enright				
Nicole Frیدهy				
Kerryn Rayson				
Laura McKendrick				

Our next meeting in June...

If you have items you'd like to raise for discussion at our next meeting, we would all be pleased to talk with you.

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 are all here to help.

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