College Principal’s Report

A FANTASTIC START TO 2014
2014 has started with an air of excitement, energy and commitment to excellence. The students look so professional especially as the white shirt is now fully phased in. If a student is not able to be in full school uniform they can now generate a Uniform Pass at the General Office with our “PING’ machine. The machine also issues Late Passes and is quick and easy to use.

MAXIMISING LEARNING TIME
We were thrilled with the results of the graduating class of 2013 and congratulate them on their success in creating a bright future. It is a goal of the College that all students complete 6 years of secondary schooling. Our particular focus this year is maximising learning time and insisting on and supporting high achievement. You can help us by reinforcing this at home and also supporting students to arrive at school on time, ready to learn, every day.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!
No doubt you have seen in the media over recent months, reports that new legislation has been introduced with respect to compulsory schooling. One aspect of the change is that parents could receive infringement notices if their child misses five full days of school in a year without a reasonable excuse. It is really important that the students attend and are punctual every school day. The school must be notified of reasons for absence.

Refer to the tables below for Approved and Unapproved reasons for absence.

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<tr>
<th>APPROVED REASONS FOR ABSENCE</th>
<th>UNAPPROVED REASONS FOR ABSENCE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Funeral</td>
<td>Personal issues (without further explanation)</td>
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<td>Job interview</td>
<td>Family commitments</td>
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<td>Medical / dental appointments (which cannot be arranged out of class time)</td>
<td>Car or bike breakdowns</td>
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<td>Court appointments</td>
<td>Sleeping in or missing the bus</td>
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<td>Court counselling</td>
<td>SAC / SAT preparation or completion of work due in other subjects</td>
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<td>College / State / National representation in sport</td>
<td>Part time work commitments or Centrelink appointments</td>
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<td>Licence testing</td>
<td>Supporting upset friends or timetable mix ups</td>
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WHO’s WHO
I would like to congratulate Shaun Isbister and Anastasia Kalavatrinos on their appointment to the Leadership team along with Andrew Nicholl who joins us from Wallan. We are thrilled to welcome back Melissa Stephens and Fiona Radici, two of our Leading Teachers who have returned from family leave.

We are also pleased the following staff have also returned to us from leave: Melanie Clark, Lisa Clarke (nee Wilson) and Belinda Jennings. A warm welcome is also extended to our new staff:- Liam Mc Naughton, Kerry Ryan, Lorraine Blyth, Katherine Czarnecki, Erin Hammett, Elizabeth Ring, Diane Guillemain, Tristan Russell, Rebecca Miatke, Alexander Herman, Stephanie Ng, Vardis Rafiei, Tara Xueret, Jenni Davies, Kathy Bourinaris, and Katie Stoicevski

There are two new names that are not new, just renames! Courtney Magdalani (nee Faull) and Catherine Varano (nee Murray) .
**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2014**

The School Council elections are open for nominations as of **Monday 10 February 2014**. There are **4 Parent** and **2 DEECD** vacancies to be filled. Information about the election process, a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations schedule is included in this newsletter. Nomination forms are available from both General Offices and close at 4:00pm on Monday 17 February 2014.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

If you don’t want to join the School Council, but still want to contribute to the College’s future direction, please consider joining one of the School Council’s sub committees. Members meet twice a term on a Tuesday night and all recommendations made by the committees are taken to School Council. Being a member of a committee also enables greater understanding of how the school operates and how decisions are made. The sub committees are:

- Education
- Student Engagement & Well Being
- Resources
- Community
- Finance

It is vitally important that we have parent input. If you are interested in joining one of the committees or have any questions, please contact Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700 or armarego.joanne.r@edumail.vic.gov.au.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Middle Years & Senior Campus school photos were held on Wednesday and Thursday. There is a follow up photo day for any students who missed out; this will be held on Friday 21 February 2014 at both Campuses.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

At this time of year it is important to remind you of the following information

**VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

All visitors, including Parents / Carers, must report to the General Office upon arrival. All official visitors are signed in and carry a Visitors Pass. Parents / Carers are not permitted to walk around the school unaccompanied.

**SCHOOL ZONES**

Parents, carers and visitors are reminded of the importance of road safety around schools. School Speed Zones will be enforced from the commencement of the school year and parents / carers / visitors are requested to abide the speed limited in the designated school speed zones during the specified times (8.00 - 9.30 am and 2.30 - 4.00 pm).

**CHILDREN IN CARS**

Melbourne and greater Victoria has been experiencing extremely high temperatures for the back to school period. Parents and/or carers are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature. Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. If a parent or carer is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.

**SAFETY FIRST**

In the interest of students’ safety, the staff car parks at each Campus are **FOR STAFF ONLY**. Parents/carers/ friends dropping off or picking up students are asked to park their car in nearby streets and not in the Staff Car Park.

**ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and carers are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

**LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME**

The Department does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. Personal property is often brought to school by students. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.
STUDENT TRAVEL CONCESSIONS
All students requiring a Student Pass are required to obtain a 2014 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. Further information and the Application Form can be obtained from: train stations, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) hubs, PTV Call Centre (Ph: 1800 800 007) or online at www.ptv.vic.gov.au.

EMA APPLICATIONS
EMA applications close on 28 February, if you are a Healthcare Cardholder or on a Pension and you haven’t completed an application form for 2014; please visit the General Office to do so before Thursday 28 February. Please note, your child must be less than 16 years of age to be eligible and your card must be current.

SAFER INTERNET DAY
Safer Internet Day (SID) is organised by the joint Insafe / INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission each February to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile devices, especially among children and young people. Celebrated on the second day of the second week of the second month, each year on Safer Internet Day hundreds of events are organised to raise awareness of online safety issues, right across the globe. Better internet can mean many things to many people, but our main aim is to foster the positive and eliminate the negative online. Mill Park Students will be completing a range of activities in various forums across the year supporting online safety.

Parents and carers can help to foster the positive by maintaining an open and honest dialogue with their children about their online lives, by supporting them with their personal development online and helping them to deal with any concerns or issues, seeking out positive opportunities to share with their children online, and helping their children to find and use good quality digital resources. They can help to eliminate the negative by monitoring and supporting their child’s online activity (as appropriate to their age), by modelling positive online behaviours themselves, and by also reporting any inappropriate or illegal content they find.

ADJUSTING TO THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL
Back-to-school can be a very emotional time for students. For students new to the school, adjusting to a new environment with new people, and adapting to a new routine can be overwhelming. You can help by talking about the positive aspects of school. Tell stories about your happy, funny and enjoyable experiences at school. Talk to older siblings about the ways they can help so they don’t tell scary stories.

Some students may be anxious about what to expect at school. If so, one way of helping them is to talk through their fears:

- Set aside time to talk about school and take an interest in what they have been doing.
- Listen carefully to any worries they might have but build on their positive experiences.
- Keep a regular routine at home to keep stress to a minimum.
- Use school newsletters and information to make sure your child knows what is happening and is informed and prepared about any changes to their routine.
- Keep positive as most problems will resolve themselves.

Trish Horner
Please see below the Parent Planner for Term One to keep you up to date on the myriad of activities the students are involved in.

We work in partnership with you to create bright futures for our students.

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The next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 February 2014 at 6pm in the Senior Campus Conference Room. If you wish to attend, please advise Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING STUDENT HEALTH

If a student is unwell every attempt will be made to contact parents, guardians or emergency contacts. In the event of serious injury or illness where a nominated person cannot be contacted, a decision will be made in the best interest of the student.

This is why it is vitally important that student records are maintained with medical conditions, allergies and special requests. If your child requires medication at school this should be monitored through sickbay.

IMMUNISATION DATES:

- **Friday 7 March**: Yr 10 Girls & Boys (Boostrix)
- **Monday 31 March**: Yr 7 Girls & Boys (HPV1)
  Yr 9 Boys (HPV 1)
- **Monday 16 June**: Yr 7 Girls & Boys (HPV2)
  Yr 9 Boys (HPV2)
- **Monday 27 October**: Yr 7 Girls & Boys (HPV3)
  Yr 7 Girls & Boys (Chickenpox)
  Yr 9 Boys (HPV3)

By now all Year 7, 9 and 10 students will have received their immunisation cards, spare cards are available at the General Office. **All cards must be returned signed even if the student isn’t being vaccinated.**

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis (a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening) affects a number of students at the College.

If you have a child with this condition and not alerted the College it is imperative you do so immediately.

Parents who have received forms to be filled out can you please return them so we can update our records.

One of the most common allergens are nuts and eggs and we ask that parents make their children aware of this condition, and to be careful when sharing food with other students.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding this condition please don’t hesitate to contact the College.

Asthma affects approximately one-fifth of our student population. These students are encouraged to use their medication accordingly under the family doctor’s instruction, i.e. before sport if needed and students should have access to this medication at all times. Ventolin inhalers and spacers can be obtained at various locations around the school.

On Thursday 3rd April the Athletics Carnival will be taking place. Students should wear appropriate clothing, a hat and apply sunscreen regularly to avoid the pain and danger of sunburn.

The PE curriculum offers a wide variety of sports and students are expected to participate. In the interest of dental safety a mouthguard should be worn when involved in sporting activities.

HEAD LICE

While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. Head lice are small wingless, blood-sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish-brown,. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head, they will die very quickly usually within 24 hours.

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who had head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl. Many lice do not cause an itch so you have to look carefully to find them; it is a good idea to check your child’s hair periodically.

**Treatment**

A lotion can be used to treat head lice. This can be purchased at a Pharmacy. Another method is by using conditioner. According to the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children with head lice can be readmitted to school after treatment has commenced.


INFECTIOUS DISEASES

If your child has been diagnosed with an Infectious Disease (e.g. Measles, Chicken Pox, etc) please ensure they have a clearance from the doctor before returning to school.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s health or safety don’t hesitate to call the School Nurse, Cathy Cranfield, between 8:30am and 3:10pm.

Cathy Cranfield
First Aid Attendant
News from the MYC Library

I would like to welcome our students to a new and exciting school year. MYC Library fosters a friendly and welcoming atmosphere to all our patrons, students, teachers and the school staff in general.

We are committed to delivering the best library and information service with professionalism and enthusiasm. In today’s information and knowledge based society, our school library provides quality information and develops essential and fundamental skills to our students. These skills will help them in developing lifelong learning habits and make them responsible citizens.

MYC library plays an important role in helping the school to achieve its academic and educational objectives. The library is the hub of the school where students and teachers can use the resources for work or recreation. To support the school curriculum we provide a variety of resources i.e. fiction books, non-fiction books, picture books, reference books, teacher reference, magazines, computers and electronic resources, printers & photocopiers, DVDs, projectors, video recorders and digital & still cameras.

The library has board games available for student use at lunchtime, and a Chess Club on Tuesday lunch time. Homework Club operates on a Wednesday where teachers are available when required to assist students with their homework.

The library is open before school, recess, lunchtime and after school.

To welcome and introduce Year 7 students to the Library services, a special library Orientation Program is taken place on Monday 17 February to Friday 28 February.

Stella Lambrou
MYC Librarian

Homework Club

Homework Club is held in both campus libraries each week after school (Senior Campus- Thursday 3:02 – 4:30pm, Middle Years Campus- Wednesday 3:02 – 4pm). Teachers are on hand to assist students and afternoon tea (toast, snacks, cordial) is served. All students welcome!
WELCOME
Welcome to the 2014 school year. We currently have 912 Senior Campus students and I am very pleased to report how great they look in their school uniforms. The burgundy polo shirts are now gone and all students are wearing the white shirt. The first day of school for students saw them participate in our ‘Getting Started’ program and I would like to thank all staff involved in either planning for, or running this important and valuable day. Classes are well underway and students should now be settling into their academic year and re-establishing good routines for homework and organisation for the mornings and getting to school on time.

There are several new staff to the Senior Campus this year and we extend a warm welcome to the following people:

- Jenni Davies - Careers
- Katherine Czarnecki – VCAL
- Diane Guillemais – Maths/Science
- Erin Hammett – Maths/Science
- Andrew Nicholls - Technology Leading Teacher
- Tristan Russell – English/Humanities
- Kerry Ryan – Science Key Learning Area Co-ordinator
- Tara Xuereb – Student Welfare Councillor

INFORMATION NIGHT
The Senior Campus Information Night will be held on Monday February 17 beginning at 7.30pm in the Campus Library. All parents and caregivers are invited, in particular, those who are new to the Campus or have a student entering Year 10 or 11 for the first time, to hear important information about the Campus, including Campus procedures, how Year 10 differs from the VCE or VCAL programs etc. There will also be a dedicated separate session for parents of Year 12 UniBridges students.

LATENESS
As you will have seen on the front page of this newsletter, each Campus now has an electronic kiosk called ‘PING’. This kiosk will dispense Late Passes for students as well as Uniform Passes. As per last year, students are given two ‘free hits’ per semester with respect to lateness and on the third and subsequent times they are late to school, without a valid reason which is verified either by a parent/care giver note or medical certificate, they will receive a detention either at lunch time or after school with one of the Principal team. Students are strongly encouraged to leave home allowing plenty of time for traffic jams or unreliable bus services. Students should aim to be at school no later than 8.45am which allows them time to meet up with their peers, to get to their lockers and make their way to their first class which begins at 8.55am every day.

UNIFORM
The burgundy polo shirts are now no longer part of the Senior Campus uniform and no student is permitted to wear them to school. As per our School Council approved uniform, all students must be wearing proper black leather school shoes with their normal uniform. Black leather runners are not permitted with the normal school uniform.

PE uniform may only be worn to school on the days the student has a PE practical class. They do not need PE uniform for theory classes. Parents are encouraged to look at their son/daughter’s timetable which should be placed in the plastic pocket of their school diary to ascertain which days their student can come to school in PE uniform. There are some students wearing regular school uniform with the PE polo shirt. This is not permitted under any circumstance.

Interested in Debating or Public Speaking?
This year at Mill Park we will be running workshops on useful skills for debating and public speaking. Workshops themes include preparing arguments on a particular topic, formulating and structuring points, rebuttal and many more. This experience enables students to develop essential skills related to critical thinking and public speaking that are beneficial for both further education and future employment.

If your child is interested in joining in this extra-curricular activity please get in touch with Ms Philippa McIlroy (mcilroy.philippa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au) at the Middle Years Campus (Ph: 9407 9700) or Ms Sonia Loudon (loudon.sonia.j@edumail.vic.gov.au) at the Senior Campus (Ph: 9409 8222).

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing many students participate in this great activity in 2014!
Welcome back to all of our staff and families! I am pleased to report a very smooth start to the year with students settling into their classes extremely well.

**New staff at the Middle Year’s Campus**
Those returning from leave:
- Fiona Radici – Humanities and Phys Ed
- Melissa Stephens – Maths

New teaching staff:
- Liam McNaughton – English/Humanities
- Elizabeth Ring – English
- Alex Herman – Maths/Science
- Vardis Raffie – Music/English
- Katie Stoicesvski – Literacy

We welcome them all along with all of our new students. Yr 7 students in particular have settled in very well with teachers and coordinators delighted with their progress and positive attitude.

**Student Leaders**
Mr Ryan Shaw is working with our student leaders this year. Elections for our Campus Captains were held at the end of last year. Congratulations to the winners, who will work alongside a broader SRC group at each year level this year. The results are as follows

**Campus Captains:** Leah McIntosh & Daniel Cropley
**Campus Vice Captains:** Sarah Bux & Adam Rouge

Elections for Year 7 & 8 Captains and for our House Captains will be held very soon!

**Swimming Sports**
Swimming Sports will be held on Friday 14 February at the Coburg Swimming Pool. Permission forms and money MUST be returned as soon as possible. Please note that this is a whole MY Campus activity and no classes will run back at school.

**Lateness and Uniform**
Could parents please ensure that students arrive to school on time. Homegroup is an important time for receiving notes and important messages, and learning in classes should not be interrupted. The process for students is as follows:
- Any student late to school must collect a late pass from the PING machine in the General Office. If the absence is legitimate, parents are asked to write a note or call the front office.
- Students who are late to school 3 times without a note will be issued with a Lunchtime Detention. If they are absent 4 times, they will be issued an After School Detention.
- Students out of uniform should collect a pass from the PING machine before school. Again, parents are asked to provide a note if the reason is legitimate.

A reminder that navy schoolbags are compulsory. They can be purchased from the school or in any retail store. Bags and backpacks MUST be navy blue and have no emblems or decals.

**Staff Car Park**
Parents and carers are asked **NOT to drop off or pick up** their children from the staff car park. The area is a high traffic area for students and staff, particularly at the beginning and end of the day and already there have been some near misses. Please arrange for your child to meet you somewhere outside of the school grounds.

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**School Sport Victoria (SSV)**

School Sport Victoria (SSV) actively promotes school sport for all Victorian school students, Years 4 to 12, as a means of supporting schools in developing their students’ health and wellbeing. SSV operates under the auspices of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Membership of School Sport Victoria is open to all Victorian schools, providing the opportunities to participate in programs that extend from grassroots intra and inter school sport, to district, division, region, state and national levels. Students attending schools affiliated with SSV are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2014 School Sport Australia National Championships. Further information is available from your School’s Sport Coordinator or on the School Sport Victoria website, [www.ssv.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au). Parents and teachers are encouraged to regularly visit the site.
Year 7 Family BBQ

What: Mill Park Secondary College Year 7 family BBQ
When: Monday 10 February at 6:30pm (arrive 6:15pm)
Where: Main Quadrangle, Mill Park Secondary College Middle Years Campus

All Year 7 students and parents / carers are invited to a Family BBQ at Mill Park Secondary College on Monday 10 February. We strongly encourage year 7 parents to attend as this is the perfect chance to meet your child’s Homegroup Teacher, Year Level Co-ordinator, Program Learning Co-ordinator and other teachers in an informal and relaxed setting.

The barbecue will be held in the Middle Years Campus quadrangle at 6:30pm. There will be a short address after the food is served. All food and drinks (including tea and coffee) will be provided, but feel free to bring picnic chairs or a rug to sit on.

Please contact your child’s Homegroup Teacher for further details on 9407 9700.

Renee Colbey

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN AIR LEAGUE CADET??

ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 8 and 18 THEN A NEW SQUADRON IS BEING FORMED AT WHITTLESEA

AN INFORMATION NIGHT IS BEING HELD AT THE WHITTLESEA SCOUT HALL ON FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY AT 7.30pm
ADULT SQUADRON LEADERS ARE ALSO NEEDED
For further information contact Wing Captain Jim Humphrey on 9736 2130
Flying, Camping, Visits to places of interest, Inter-Squadron activities, Sport, Training, Drill, Ceremonial activities, ANZAC Parades, Civic roles, Badge subjects, and more.

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2014 TERM DATES

Term 1 - 29 January to 4 April
Term 2 - 22 April to 27 June
Term 3 - 14 July to 19 September
Term 4 - 6 October to 19 December

Please remember that family holidays during the school term are counted as unapproved absences from the College. These can significantly impact on a student’s ability to achieve satisfactory outcomes in their subjects.

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING IN MELBOURNE
Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Thursday, 6th February - 7.30pm
Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens
380 William Street
MELBOURNE

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au or call 1300 135 331 for more information
**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 appointed 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.**
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Mill Park Secondary College.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and **must be lodged by 4:00pm on Monday 17 February 2014**

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 member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>2</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.

Trish Horner  
College Principal