

Seymour College School Wide Positive Behaviour  
At Seymour College:

“I will enter the classroom in a calm manner, ready to learn.”

VOL 3

Thursday 20 February 2020

## Year 9 Bogong Camp



The aim of the year 9 Bogong Camp is to work on resilience, belonging and connections within the level. The students have worked on their climbing skills and preparing themselves for a 20 metre abseil. The abseil takes students out of their comfort zone in a safe setting to overcome their perceived fear. The result is a boost in self confidence and trust in others.

Ruby Swallow (right) is well and truly conquering her fears on the abseil.

Parents' Clubs undertake valuable work in supporting and building the school community. If you would like to be part of this great club please join us for our first meeting of the new school year at 5pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the staff lounge.



### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
Investiture Ceremony  
9am

Primary Assembly  
2.30 - 3.00 pm

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February**  
Primary Division Swimming

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
House Athletic Sports

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tue - Fri 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March**  
Bookfair

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 7 Vaccinations

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**  
School Photos

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
Curriculum Day

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
Catch up Photos

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
Parents & Friends Meeting  
5 pm

## College Council

College Council met last night and we farewelled members who have completed their term of office.

I would like to thank the commitment of Russell Chapman, Susan Tennant, Michelle Mussett and Tiffany Goodman who have been dedicated parent members of our College Council. Thank you also to Emily Kemp and Corey Blades (resigned), who represented our student member category. Once again, the dedication of you all has been significant to our College Council.

It is timely to remind you that the College Council elections are open and I encourage you to speak with Anthony Tennant, Jonathan Parker or Jason Tarran or any of our retiring members and consider nomination for these vacant positions. It is a rewarding and meaningful experience.

Students can discuss the vacant position with Emily Kemp. Of the two positions vacant, one is for one year and the other is for two years. This is a great opportunity for students to be involved with the College Council and they would be expected to attend all meetings for the 2020 / 2022 period. There are seven meetings for the year and they fall on Wednesdays and commence at 5:00 pm. Please consider your other commitments and your availability to attend prior to nomination.

## College Council Elections

Our College Council elections are being held this month. Councils perform amazing and important work to provide support and governance to schools.

Nominations forms are available from the General Office and I encourage staff, parents and students to consider nominating for these roles.

Approximately half the Council term expires each year and I would like to advise that the following positions are vacant:

<b>Staff members:</b>	<b>0 positions</b>
<b>Parent members:</b>	<b>4 positions</b>
<b>Student members:</b>	<b>2 positions.</b>

## 2020 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

- a) Notice of election and call for nominations – **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February** (forms available at the General Office)
- b) Closing date for nominations – **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February** (by 4:00 pm to the Principal's Executive Assistant's Office)
- c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted – **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February (if applicable)**
- d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed – **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**
- e) Close of ballot – **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**
- f) Vote Count – **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**
- g) Declaration of poll – **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**
- h) Special AGM Council meeting to co-opt Community Members and to elect office bearers (the Principal will preside) – **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Gail Hardman – Principal**

## Foundation News

Today in the foundation room we watched a caterpillar hatch from its chrysalis. Once the butterfly had stretched its wings we let fly away in the indigenous garden to find food. The foundation students loved learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly.



## Primary News

The year has commenced smoothly with classes establishing calm and orderly learning environments over the past couple of weeks. Students have been working on moving around the school calmly and sensibly and ensuring that they are coming to school ready to learn. This has enabled our students to be engaged in their learning and taking ownership of their learning areas. Students have been busy setting up their book boxes and classroom libraries for reading. Home readers will begin going home and we encourage you to read every night with your child. The 'Nights Reading' award has commenced so ensure you are logging your child's reading in their diaries/home reading journals. We thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's learning.

**Dean Bush and Natalie Tennant**

## Whole School Assembly

2020 College Captains, Doug Hooper and Sattine Wilson, addressed the students at our first full College assembly. They impressed upon students that both students and staff are lifelong learners and that all students need to make the most of their education while at Seymour College. On Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, all College leaders will receive their badges at the Investiture Ceremony.



for all info and rego link go to [runthecourse.com.au](http://runthecourse.com.au)

**MONDAY MARCH 9, 2020**

**1/2 MARATHON - 21.1 kms at 7.30a.m.**

**FUN RUN/WALK 8.30am**

**7.5 KMS - 18 HOLES**

**3.5 KMS - 9 HOLES**

The course is pram friendly  
Community fundraising offer  
Follow us on fbook or instagram

### STAFF CARPARKS

The staff carparks are strictly for staff only. Please do not walk through these areas with your children

### OFFICE HOURS:

8am - 4:30pm Monday - Friday

### EMAIL ADDRESS:

[seymour.co@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:seymour.co@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### WEBSITE:

[www.seymourcollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.seymourcollege.vic.edu.au)

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

All students are required to wear full school in accordance with the Seymour College uniform policy.



## Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
- **Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.**

The theme of our Scholastic Book Fair is **Enchanted Forest**, where we hope you will **let their imagination grow!**

It's a fun reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair dates: March 10-13

Shopping hours: 8:30-9:00am / 3:15-3:45pm

Where: Staffroom, Admin Building

Your child will take you there

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

Sincerely,

**Katherine Cook**  
**Book Fair Co-ordinator**

SCHOLASTIC  **Book Fairs**



## SEYMOUR JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

P.O. BOX 8043  
SEYMOUR. VIC. 3660  
ABN 9378537310

Young women with a desire to be the next AFLW star like Katie Brennan, can do so by contacting the coach of the Seymour Youth Girls U/18 team. The season is about to get underway in April, and we are still seeking up to 5 more young female footballers to join the Seymour Lionesses, as we are only allowed to have 25 players on our team list!

If you are aged between 13 - 18 and have the desire to kick the Tommy Sherrin, please make the call and we will ensure all your questions are answered, and pathways to AFLW opened.

Call Stuart on 0418552016 to discover more!

# Students of the Week



Grade 6 student, Wyatt Abra writes about ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).

## **The ADHD advantage**

**By Wyatt Abra**

ADHD is a medical diagnosis that doesn't restrict people with ADHD, they're still normal. They just have a lot more resilience, but they have a weaker impulse control.

The first reason I think ADHD is a good thing because people with this diagnosis are still normal people, they just need a bit of extra help. An example of the help they might need is occupational therapy, speech therapy and psychologist support.

Although ADHD can make people take un-necessary risks, if they fail then they will just try, try again, until they get it right.

The last reason is because people with ADHD have a weaker impulse control. What is impulse control? Well, impulse control is how much control you have with decisions. What is an impulsive decision? Well, an impulsive decision is a decision made without thinking it through.

In conclusion, I hope you agree that ADHD is not just something that people are diagnosed with or a disadvantage.

Thankyou for reading.

# Seymour College Swimming Sports

It was a wonderful day at the Seymour College Swimming Carnival on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, with a healthy spirit of inclusion, support and fun made possible with the assistance of our parents, carers, extended family members and staff.

## Age Champions

9G- Chloe-Jo Reed  
9B- Alando (Merv) Head  
10G- Isabel Meller  
10B- Taj Wessels  
11G- Ariella Head  
11B- Fletcher Christensen  
12G- Ella Zotti  
12B- Bailey Harris

12/13G- Chloe Winnell  
12/13B- Jhett Wyatt  
14G- Kaitlyn Sweet  
14B- Finbar O'Sullivan  
15G- Hannah Cotter  
15B- Lincoln Smith  
16G- Monique Purchase  
16B- Will O'Brien  
17G- Keely Wright  
17B- Angus Garner and Ariel Parker  
18/10G- Lulu Moon  
18/20B- Joshua Chanloup



  
  


## Swap Meet

**LABOUR DAY, 9TH MARCH 2020**

Kings Park, Seymour

**CAR SHOW • KIDS RIDES • FOOD STALLS • MARKET**

Gates open at 7am for stall holders.  
No alcohol. No camping. No dogs allowed.  
Gates open for 9am for general public.



**Child Safety Standards** – we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This is our primary focus of our care and decision-making. Seymour College community has zero tolerance for child abuse.

# Seymour College

## TERM CALENDAR – IMPORTANT DATES

### Term 1 2020

<b>WEEK 5</b>		<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>		(Foundation - 9am—3.15pm)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>		(Foundation - 9am—3.15pm)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>		(Foundation - no school)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Division Swimming	(Foundation - 9am—3.15pm)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	House Athletic Sports Primary Assembly 2.30 - 3.00 pm	(Foundation - 9am—3.15pm)
<b>WEEK 6</b>		<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Southern Ranges Swimming	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Community Open Day	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	National Gallery of Victoria excursion - Years 11 & 12	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Assembly 2.30 - 3.00 pm	
<b>WEEK 7</b>		<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day Public Holiday	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>		
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Vaccinations	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>		
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Round Robin Term 1 Primary Assembly 2.30 - 3.00 pm	
<b>WEEK 8</b>		<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rubicon Camp - Year 7 School Photos	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>		
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Vaccinations	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>		
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum Day - Pupil Free	

## Schedule 4: Notice of election and call for nominations

<b>An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Seymour College</b>

<b>Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020.</b>

<b>The ballot will close (if required) at 4.00 pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.</b>

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<b>Membership category</b>
Parent member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2020
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2022

<b>Number of positions:</b>	4
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<b>Membership category</b>
DET employee member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2020
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2022

<b>Number of positions:</b>	0
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<b>Membership category</b>
Student member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2020
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2022

<b>Number of positions:</b>	2
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Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

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.

<b>Principal signature</b>
<i>Gaul Hardman</i>

## Appendix A

### Fact Sheet 1. 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 broad direction of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. 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 primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. 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 member 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 co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members
- A small number of school councils have Nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- A mandated elected Student member category, two positions.

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 inform and 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. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)
- **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

## Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a) the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b) the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

## How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to participate in and vote in the school council 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 consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

## School council induction video

The school council induction video provides a summary of the purpose and responsibilities of school councils as well as the roles and responsibilities of school councillors. The video can be viewed on the [Department's website at School Councils](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx).

<[https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.a  
spx](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx)>

## 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 1 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 member category.

DET 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 via post, email or by hand 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

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal for further information.

## Fact sheet 3. Information for students seeking election to council

### What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. School councils are legal entities that are given powers to set the broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Orders and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

### What are some of the duties of a school councillor?

The school council has particular functions in setting and monitoring the school's direction.

School councils have key responsibilities:

- **Finance:** overseeing the development and expenditure of the school's annual budget and ensuring proper records are kept of the school's financial operation.
- **Strategic planning:** participating in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan.
- **Policy development and review:** developing, reviewing and updating selected policies that reflect the school's values and support the school's broad direction outlined in its strategic plan
- **Community engagement:** informing itself of community views and stimulating community interest in the school.

Other key functions of school councils may include:

- raising funds for school related purposes
- maintaining school grounds and facilities
- entering into contracts
- reporting annually to the school community and the Department
- creating interest in the school in the wider community
- representing and taking the views of the community into account
- regulating and facilitating after-hours use of school premises and grounds
- operating a children's service at the school.

### Why is Student membership so important?

Students have a unique perspective on learning, teaching and schools. Having student members on school council allows students to have a say in the future direction of their school and ensures student input into decision making.

Student representation on secondary school councils will assist in the development of students' skills, including leadership skills and communication skills.

### Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them in order to perform their duties as a councillor.

Student members are encouraged to acquire this knowledge by attending the Department's free face-to-face Improving School Governance school council training to support them to undertake their role. Training is also available online.

## Who is on the school council?

For all schools with a student cohort of Year 7 and above, there are several possible categories of school council membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent member category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Parents and carers of children attending the school are eligible for membership in this category.
- **A mandated elected DET employee member 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 a member of this category.
- **A mandated elected Student member category (two positions)** – members of this category are enrolled at the school and in Year 7 or above.
- **An optional Community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or expertise. DET employees are not eligible to be a Community member.
- A small number of school councils have Nominee members.

## How many Student member positions are there on school council?

All Victorian government schools with a student cohort of Year 7 and above will have **two** mandated Student member positions on school council.

## Can I share the role with another student?

Councillors are not permitted to share their role. Councillors are elected to council and are expected to attend all meetings and serve their full term of office.

## Are school captains and SRC representatives offered a position on council before other students?

While being the school captain, vice-captain or a member of the SRC can provide valuable leadership experience, no students can be offered a position in the Student member category based on their standing within the school.

School captains and SRC members are not automatic council members. Voting for student leaders at the school, such as school captains and SRC representatives is a distinct and separate process to voting for Student school council members.

Any student interested in being a Student member of their school council is required to run for election like other council members.

## How long is the term of office?

Generally, the term of office for all council members is two years. The term of office of half the members in each category expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Students voted onto council will be elected to council for a two year term of office.

## What happens if there are tied votes?

If there is a tie between the candidates standing for election, the successful candidates will be determined by the drawing of lots.

Now that the student membership category has been established, it is likely that one student will be elected each year. If a student member resigns prior to the end of their term of office, a casual vacancy is created. The casual vacancy is filled through the co-option process by school council.

## **What do I need to do to stand for election?**

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the start of Term 1 each year.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for a student in Year 7 or above at your school to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself (self-nomination) for the Student member category.

Once the nomination form is completed, it should be returned to the principal within the stated time. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt following the receipt of the completed nomination.

## **Are there any rules on how I campaign?**

Campaign literature supporting Student member candidates for school council elections may only be distributed and posted in certain places and times as designated by the principal of your school.

School resources may not be used to support candidates.

The principal may invite candidates to prepare a brief statement to be distributed with each ballot paper. The length of the candidate statement is specified by the principal and is usually no longer than 150 words.

## **Nominations for school council**

If one student vacancy is available and only one student nominates, then the student is duly elected.

Unlike the Parent or DET employee member categories, if two Student member positions are available and in the first call for nominations only one nomination is received, the student is not automatically declared elected. The principal will immediately post, in a prominent place in the school, a notice calling for further nominations. These nominations are to be received within three school days from the closing of the first call for nominations.

If after the second call for nominations one other nomination is received, then both students are appointed to council.

After the second call for nominations if the total number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies then all nominees will go to ballot. The two students with the most votes will serve as the Student members on school council.

## **How do I know which students are standing for election?**

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacant positions, a ballot will be held.

Student names will be listed in random order on the voting/ballot paper.

The principal may invite candidates to prepare a brief statement to be distributed with each ballot paper. The candidate statements will be placed in the same order as listed on the ballot papers.

## **How do I vote?**

At least seven days before the date fixed for the closure of the ballot, the principal will arrange delivery of the ballot papers.

A secure ballot box or boxes in the case of multiple school campuses will be available for the casting of votes at the school between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm on every school day up to and including the day of the closure of the ballot.

A voter must not vote more than once in a ballot and may either post the vote back to the school or deliver the completed ballot paper to the school. The principal or school staff will provide advice on how to return the completed ballot paper.

## **School council meetings**

School councils must meet at least eight times a year and at least once per school term. The president chairs all meetings and all members of the council are expected to attend.

Councillors can attend meetings in person or by videoconferencing or teleconferencing.

Following the school council elections, council members will determine an appropriate time and location to hold meetings throughout the year. For example, council may agree that meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month in the school library.

For most school councils, meetings are located at the school and are held in the evening to ensure the majority of members can attend. Meetings typically last for around 2.5 hours.

You will need to discuss and arrange transport options to and from the meeting with your parent or carer. The school council does not provide transport.

The principal, in consultation with the school council president, will ensure an agenda is prepared for each regular meeting and will distribute the agenda, draft minutes from the previous meeting and meeting papers such as subcommittee reports, principal's and president's report to school council members. These documents will be provided approximately five days before the meeting. All members, including Student members are expected to read all documents and prepare in advance of each meeting.

## **Conflict of Interest**

If you, as a member of council, or your immediate family has a direct conflict of interest, including a pecuniary\* interest in with a matter under discussion at a school council meeting, that member must declare the conflict of interest and must not be present during the discussion unless invited to do so by the person presiding at the meeting. The member will not be involved in any voting associated with the matter at hand.

\*For this purpose, pecuniary is defined as: relating to or consisting of money.

## **What if I cannot attend a council meeting?**

If a member is unable to attend a meeting, an apology should be submitted to the principal prior to the meeting.

A member of the school council may apply in writing to the president for extended leave of up to three consecutive meetings.

## Is there training that I can attend?

School councillors can attend face-to-face training offered statewide. The training uses the Improving School Governance package and is at no cost to school council members. Training is available in the following modules for students: Governance, Strategic Planning and Finance.

Students are encouraged to attend this training offered by the Department, in consultation with the principal. The principal is responsible for providing evidence of parent/carer permission to the training providers should the student participate in training.

The modules are also accessible as online training. Participants can complete the modules at their own pace, in any order and are able to return to each module as many times as necessary. To access the online training see the [Department's school council webpage](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx)

<<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx>>

### School council induction video

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## Can a school council tell a teacher what to do?

A school council cannot issue instructions to teachers regarding their professional duties, or to employees of the Department in respect of their duties at the school. That role is the responsibility of the principal. If a school council has developed a school policy on certain matters and that policy is consistent with Department policy the council can expect the school staff will implement the policy.

## Is there further information available regarding the roles and responsibilities of school councils?

Further information on the roles and responsibilities of school councillors is available on the [Department's School Councils web page](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx)

<<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx>>

or in the [School Policy and Advisory Guide at School Councils](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/councils.aspx)

<<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/pages/councils.aspx>>

## Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)

- **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

## Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a) the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b) the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

For further information please contact your school principal.

# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR NDIS PLAN

## NDIS Information Session – Goulburn

### What is the session about?

If you find yourself saying “I have my NDIS plan; what are the next steps?”, then this session could be for you! We have developed an information session for people with disability and their families or carers, called “Getting the Most Out of Your NDIS Plan”. The information and resources you will receive at the session have been designed to assist you to gain maximum benefit when putting your plan into action.

During a two and a half hour session, you will gain knowledge about key NDIS concepts, be given many useful suggestions and tips, and feel more empowered and confident in how to implement your NDIS plan.

We use accessible venues and materials, and we provide a break and refreshments. We'll also have a guest speaker from Rights Information and Advocacy Centre (<https://riac.org.au/>) sharing their valuable insights.

### When and where is the session being held?

**When: Thursday 19 March 2020 from 10:00am to 12:30pm.**

**Where: Wallan Youth Room, Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre, 42 Bentinck Street, Wallan VIC 3756**

### Who is running the session?

The session is designed and delivered by staff with a disability from the Disability Loop team at AFDO (Australian Federation of disability Organisations). AFDO and its member organisations are run by and for people with lived experience of disability. Disability Loop is a program that aims to make information about the NDIS easier to find, understand, and use.

### There are lots of NDIS sessions, how is ours different?

As people with lived experience of disability ourselves, we are better able to focus on the needs of people with disability. The workshop was written using plain language, which makes complicated concepts easier to understand. We aim to make the workshops a safe space where people can share their questions and concerns without worrying about any judgement. All workshops are held in wheelchair accessible venues, near public transport where possible, and are free for people with disability and their families! We are also providing a wide range of accessibility supports for attendees with disability, free of charge, to make it easier to participate. This includes Auslan interpreters or captioning if requested.

You will receive a detailed information pack to take home.

**Bookings are essential for catering and accessibility purposes. Please register by 12 March 2020. For more information and to register, visit: [www.disabilityloop.eventbrite.com](http://www.disabilityloop.eventbrite.com) or Call: (03) 9662 3324**



Seymour College – Year 7 - 9 Campus

## COMMUNITY OPEN DAY WEDNESDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> 4 – 6PM

### Seymour Family and Children’s Centre & Seymour College

We are so excited to invite the Seymour community to visit the new Family and Children’s Centre and new school buildings. Come and find out what’s on at the Family and Children’s Centre, the School, meet staff and have look around! We can’t wait to see you there!



Seymour Family and Children’s Centre



Seymour College – Canteen

**WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>  
4-6PM**

**TOURS OF FAMILY  
CENTRE AND  
SCHOOL  
4.30PM/5.30PM**

**VISIT NEW KINDER  
AND SCHOOL  
BUILDINGS!**

**FOOD, DRINKS,  
ENTERTAINMENT  
& GIVEAWAYS  
DRAWN AT 5.30!**

**SEYMOUR COLLEGE**  
29 STEWART ST  
SEYMOUR

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>  
4 – 6 PM

ALL MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMUNITY WELCOME!



# DRUMBEAT

for Kids



**Harnessing Hope**

Outside support for inside healing

Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts

Join us for eight weeks of drumming and fun. The program can help your child in the following ways:

- improve their mental wellbeing
- increase their self-esteem
- reduce their stress levels
- build their communication and teamwork skills.

This DRUMBEAT program is targeted for children who have experienced unhealthy relationships.



## Sessions

4 February to  
24 March 2020  
(over eight sessions)

## When

Tuesday  
4 – 5pm

## Where

FamilyCare,  
64 High Street Seymour



For more information, call Seymour Child FIRST on 1800 663 107



## Emotion Coaching: Connecting with Our Kids

Help your child to:

- Understand their emotions and be able to communicate how they feel
- Regulate their emotions and calm themselves
- Develop resilience and positive self-esteem
- Develop problem-solving and social skills
- Develop kindness and empathy towards others

This two hour session delivered by Gateway Health in partnership with FamilyCare, is for parents and carers of children 2-10 years of age who would like to learn more about emotion coaching, understanding their children's emotional development and how they can connect with their children.



### Where is it held?

Chittick Park Community  
Place, Pollard Street

Seymour

**Time:**

**12pm to 2pm**



### When is it?

Tuesday 25th February  
2020

**What do I pay?**

**FREE**



### How do I join in?

To book or ask a question  
contact the  
Parent Education Team at  
Gateway Health

**T: (02) 6022 8816**

Every child is different.  
So is every foster carer.



**BERRY STREET**

**A little of your time can change an entire life.**

In Victoria, the number of children who cannot live safely at home has risen every year over the last 10 years. Children in care have experienced trauma – they need a safe, nurturing home environment to help them recover.

If you are over 21 and have a spare bedroom, we would love to hear from you. As a foster carer, you could make a huge difference to a child or young person in need.

For more information please contact Janene  
T: (03) 5822 8100 or E: [humefostercare@berrystreet.org.au](mailto:humefostercare@berrystreet.org.au)



# WEP STUDENT EXCHANGE

**TXT 'EXCHANGE' TO  
0428 246 633  
FOR A FREE INFO PACK!**



**SCHOLARSHIPS  
NOW AVAILABLE!**

## AT A GLANCE:

- Choose from over 25 countries
- Attend school overseas
- Live with a local host family
- Learn about yourself and the world around you
- Make international friendships
- Learn a language
- Make memories to last a lifetime!



**"THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST  
AMAZING ADVENTURE, THERE ARE  
NO WORDS!" CAITLIN, CANADA**