

LILYDALE HIGH SCHOOL

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LILYDALE HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018

All members of the Lilydale High School community are invited to submit nominations for the school council elections of 2018.

Please read all sections of this notice carefully.

Vacancies

There are three (3) two year vacancies for Parent/Guardian members of Council.

There are two (2) vacancies for members of staff who are employed by the Department of Education and Training.

Nominations

Nominations are invited from members of the Lilydale High School community for the above positions.

Nominations will open on Monday 12 February and close at 4 pm on Monday 19th February 2018. Nomination forms can be obtained from the school office, school website, or on Compass. Please note that there are two nomination forms: one for self-nomination and the other for nomination by another parent member. **Only one form is required to be lodged.**

A list of candidates and nominators will be posted at the school and on Compass on Wednesday 21st February 2018.

New members to council are most welcome.

Voting

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies and an election is required, ballot papers will be prepared and distributed via Compass on or before Monday 26th February 2018.

Votes may be cast at the school office any time up to and including Monday 5th March 2018 between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm.

Votes may also be lodged by post or hand delivered provided they reach the school by 4 pm on 5th March 2018.

Please give this matter your careful consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Powson', is written above the printed name of the Principal.

WENDY POWSON
Principal

School Council Elections 2018

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 Training (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 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. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

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 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.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to 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 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?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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 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 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 in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, 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.

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Lilydale High School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school, Compass or website and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **Monday 19 February 2018.**

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on **Monday 5 March 2018.**

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:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent Member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020	3
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2020	2

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.



WENDY POWSON
Principal