

Brighton Primary School

2023 School Council Election - Nominee Statements

Melissa Mohan

My name is Melissa Mohan and I am currently a member of the School Council. I have 19 years of experience in international marketing and education. For the past 2 years, I've championed the efforts of the school via our comms effort to secure funding for the school and successfully pitched a communications audit (something that has never been done in the 147 years of the school's history) that is underway and will take into consideration all the voices that makes up Brighton Primary School. This work will enhance & strengthen 'who we are' as a school, our brand as well as result in improved communications including a new website for BPS this year. I would value the opportunity to continue this important work this year.

I have 2 children that are studying at Brighton Primary. As a member of the international community and being a part of the deaf community and BPS's Hearing Unit, I value and champion diversity and inclusion and hope that I have your support in being the voice for our little stars to be citizens of the world.

Dr Clint Miller

I am seeking re-election to the Brighton primary school council because I bring a broad range of experience and knowledge in the areas of education and health. I am currently the deputy director of the Masters of Clinical Exercise Physiology course at Deakin University. My research and teaching is focussed on exercise and nutrition for the treatment of chronic disease.

Originally trained in Tasmania, I have taught in primary and secondary schools in Tasmania and Victoria before returning to study to complete a Masters of Clinical Exercise Physiology and a PhD. I am passionate about education and with two children attending Brighton Primary school, I believe that I bring a pragmatic and unique perspective which is shaped by experiences as a parent and educator.

I have actively served on the school council since 2020. As an active volunteer in various school activities, I have a passion for supporting the school community, and contributing to the review of policies and implementation strategies that facilitate a safe and inspiring learning environment for our children. I believe in the importance of parent and carer engagement in their child's learning, and I am eager to bring my unique perspective as both a parent and educator to the council. With your support, I look forward to being a trustworthy and informed voice that helps shape the strategic direction of our school.

Jessica (Jess) Groszek

I am the mum of two children at Brighton Primary School, with a third due to start in 2025. We are excited to live very close to the school and have loved contributing to the school community over the last three years.

I am passionate about connecting people into healthy and vibrant communities, where they can grow, while experiencing support and genuine friendship. My hope is to see children and families flourish during these important primary school years.

I believe I can bring a level of expertise to the school council. My background has primarily been in pioneering and pastoring churches and working in not-for-profits delivering fundraising, staff and volunteer management, communications and political engagement. I have served on boards for organisations involved in international aid and development, and on committees managing local and international project funds and grants. In addition, I have contributed to a local council advisory group on sustainability. Over the years, I have worked in pioneering roles in remote Indonesia, Melbourne-based human trafficking response and education and have engaged directly with state and federal members of parliament.

If elected, I will work hard in the interests of all families and students.

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Aaron Stead

I am excited by the opportunity to run for school councilor to contribute to making BPS a great school for our kids. My young family of five relocated from South Yarra to Brighton last year to enjoy more space and be by the water; we are loving the area and community feeling.

With three young kids, I am expecting to be involved at BPS for many years to come and am very keen to give back to the school and community by being involved for the long term.

As a qualified Chartered Accountant and an MBA graduate from Melbourne Business School, I have a strong commercially oriented background from private equity, consulting, construction and engineering both locally and internationally. I'm currently Group Financial Controller and Company Secretary for a real estate group that specialises in new communities and creating environments for people to come together. This role allows me to continue to operate on the commercial side of accounting and finance which is experience that I would bring into the projects underway at BPS.

I have recently joined the BPS Playground projects working group to help refresh the three main play areas. In 2019 I was heavily involved in the refurbishment of the Brookville Kinder playground in Toorak and intend using the experience from this project to help the working group drive the project at BPS.

With one of the main current issues at BPS being the run-down facilities and lack of government support, I would like to bring my finance and commercial skill set to help navigate this complex area and assist with getting these projects executed for the kids to enjoy.

Thankyou for your consideration.

Emma Oliver

My name is Emma Oliver and I'm the mum of Clementine in Grade 3, and my son Henry graduated from Grade 6 last year.

I grew up in Bendigo, and spent much of my childhood at the footy clubrooms where my parents were on the committee and organised social functions. Many a weekend was spent at the school where dad helped at the working bees and in the week mum ran the uniform shop.

We joined Brighton Primary in 2017 after having lived and worked overseas for many years. I worked as a broker in the financial markets in the UK and Asia. Recently I have joined ANZ working in their Global Executive Recruitment team.

Not being from the area when we returned from overseas and knowing the strong friendship my parents had made from their involvement in our school, we threw ourselves into volunteering and quickly made some wonderful friendships and connections in the school.

Since joining BPS I have been a class rep, a parent representative on the School Council, sat on the Finance subcommittee and cooked thousands of sausages. The highlight of my involvement was to Co-Chair the PFC for the last two years with my very talented, clever and reliable friend for life, Jan Browne.

I believe a school thrives from parent involvement and Brighton Primary School is a great example of that. I'm proud to have been involved firsthand in the wonderful changes Steve, Joel and the staff are bringing to our children's learning and learning environment. To have been part of the implementation of those changes with the fantastic school committee I've worked with over the last couple of years, has been really rewarding.

I hope I bring diversity of thought, a can-do attitude and a rational point of view. I've contributed some great playlists for the lapathon, pizza delivery to the dad's footy, bus trips for parent events, dug holes for new plants and spoken too much on the microphone at most of those events.

Thanks for reading and it would be a pleasure to be the School Council Parent Representative for 2023.

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Michelle Gibson

My name is Michelle Gibson and I have served on the School Council for the past two years. I have two children currently at Brighton Primary, and four children in total. I attended Brighton Primary as a child (just a few years ago!!!), and also completed my teaching rounds there. I am an active member of the Parents and Friends Committee and, quite frankly, Brighton Primary is and, always has been, a major part of my life. I am a primary school teacher and feel I bring an experienced, educational perspective to the role of School Councillor. I am enthusiastic and passionate and always adopt a can-do attitude to all I undertake. By serving another term as a School Councillor I will be able to continue driving the improvements to the school facilities, upgrading the old, and lobbying for the new.

23-Feb-2023