WE NEED YOU

- If you would like to be more informed of and involved in the development of the learning and social programs at CHPS
- If you have ideas to improve our school
- If you would like to have input in the development of our buildings, grounds and outdoor equipment
- If you would like to have a “voice” in how our school runs
- If you can attend eight meetings this year from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Chelsea Heights Primary.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school (at the office) from Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} February, 2015.

Nominations must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Thursday 19\textsuperscript{th} February, 2015.

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>2 years</td>
<td>5x positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1x position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET Employee Member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>3x positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Members</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2x positions</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.

\textit{Jane Satchwell}

Principal
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 key directions of a school within statewide 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?
For most school councils, 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** – members are coopted 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 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 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.

The 2015 CHPS School Council Election Process and Timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Notice of Election &amp; Call for Nominations</td>
<td>Thursday 12th February, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Closing of Nominations</td>
<td>Thursday 19th February, 2015 – 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The date by which the list of candidates, nominator and seconder will be displayed</td>
<td>Monday 23rd February, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>Tuesday 24th February, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Close of Ballot</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th March, 2015 – 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Vote Count</td>
<td>Thursday 5th March, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Declaration of Ballot</td>
<td>Friday 6th March, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Annual General Meeting -</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th March, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First council meeting to appoint Community Members and elect office bearers.</td>
<td>6:30pm to 9:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact Jane Satchwell for any further information.