

What is Governing Council? Have you thought about joining Governing Council?

As we have a number of long standing GC members retiring, there is an opportunity to join our Governing Council in 2018. Here is a bit of information about *what Governing Council is and isn't* and also some successful projects that GC have been involved in.

Governing Council is an elected body of parents that meet twice a term to represent the wider school community. They work with the Principal around matters of 'governance' in the school. A common 'GC Myth' is that you would take on responsibility of being involved in the day to day running of the school. That is called the *management* of the school and that is my responsibility as the Principal. So rest assured you won't have to take up a second job!

Things that cover 'governance' include:

- Looking and reviewing current school policies (eg- Anti-bullying, Sun-safe, grievance procedures etc.)
- Fundraising for our students (your children) so we can continually improve our facilities/ equipment (FUNdraising committee)
- Oversight of our OSHC (out of ours school care committee)
- Oversight of the schools Learning Improvement plan (Education committee)
- Oversight of our school's finances (finance committee)
- Oversight of out of hours school sporting teams (sports committee)

Another 'GC myth' is that perhaps there isn't a lot done and there is just a series of meetings. In fact, our Governing Council has been very active in helping to improve our school in many ways. It's a very relaxed and informal forum and you don't have to have had any experience; just be a parent!

Did you know our Governing Council has been directly involved in the following outcomes for our school?:

- Transitioning our school-run canteen to a new private provider- Rory's School Lunches
- Lots of great FUNdraising (in addition with school funds) to help improve your child's school, including the launch of the new outdoor nature play area on site west, tunnelled play area on site east, upgrade to coloured courts from asphalt, new playgrounds in the school, bike shelters on west and lots of great learning equipment for your child 'classrooms including ICT/ Computers.
- Safety upgrades to parking/ pedestrian safety including boom gates in Gym car park and new paved entrance walkway for parents/families on Garden Terrace
- Transitioning our old school-run uniform shop to UMS (private provider)
- Huge improvement to our OSHC facilities inside and out, including new outdoor basketball court, garden area and the purchase of I-Pads and other fun resources for your children to use when in OSHC care.
- Establishment of an out of ours school sports policy, to establish and support sporting teams for our school (currently netball and basketball, but looking for other teams too!)
- Establishment of our own playgroup that operates in the adjacent pre-school; great for the younger ones!

Can you spare approx.2 hours, twice a term to help support your children's school? Then why not join up as a member of Governing Council? It's a lot of fun and meetings are held in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. To nominate, come along to our AGM (Annual general meeting) on Tuesday, 6th of February at 7pm. After the AGM we will ask for volunteers to join our GC in 2018. If you can't attend the AGM, then please email your interest to the front office and we can get in touch with you. Why not join up with a friend?!

Hope to see you next week at the AGM!

Kind regards

David Cowles

Principal