On Friday the nominations for School Council closed and we had seven parents who nominated for the positions. This means we will now have an election. Today we have sent home two ballot papers with the eldest child in every family. Every parent in entitled to vote which is why we have sent home two ballot papers.

Parents need to number the candidates in order of preference and then put their ballot paper in the smaller envelope. That envelope then needs to be placed inside the bigger envelope with your name clearly marked on this outer envelope. You need to do this as we are required to keep a register of the people who have voted.

Parents can send their envelope to school with their child or bring their ballot paper directly to the office, sign the register and place it in the ballot box.

Voting closes at 4pm on Friday 7th March

Leanne Sheean
Principal
The school has received the following nominations for the Parent Positions on the 2014 School Council

Duncan McColl

Hello, my name is Duncan McColl and I have two sons attending MSPS, one in grade four and the other in grade two. I served on the School Council as the Treasurer in 2013 and seek to be re-elected for 2014 so as to continue contributing to the positive environment the school provides for our children to be the best they can.

I am very community orientated especially in the area of the youth in our community, having served as Treasurer on the Eltham Toy Library committee for two years and also as a Scout Leader for over 25 years, mainly as a Venturer Scout Leader (working with 14-18 year olds) and recently taking a second role as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader at Lower Plenty where I work with a number of our school's grade 2 to 5 students. On a vocational level I am a very experienced finance professional within the Victorian public service having worked at the Departments of Human Services, Education and Early Childhood Development, and Victoria Police. These roles have required my active involvement in a large number of governance structures providing me with experiences relevant to the school council and with the bureaucracy that the school encounters in dealings with the Department and Local Council.

Drew Salisbury

My oldest of 3 boys joined MSPS Prep in 2013 and I was eager to contribute to the school, initially joining Parents & Friends but subsequently transitioning in to a position with the School Council. I see my involvement in the Council to date has been valued and hope to continue participating throughout 2014.

In 2009 I was a primary contributor within the Bushfire Committee at the Eltham Child Care Co-Op, helping to develop the Centre's initial policy in response to the threat of fire that had been experienced in summer that year.

I work as an IT Manager, having been in the industry for 16 years, working in Doncaster for the past 8. I enjoy the commercial- and personnel-based challenges that this dynamic business environment brings and have found that my skills apply well as a School Council contributor. I believe my values are strongly aligned with the School's objectives, all towards the most positive outcomes we can achieve for our children and community.

Stephen Longmuir
My name is Stephen Longmuir, I am 62 years old. I am married to Kerryn and we have 2 natural children and 5 foster children. I have been a foster parent for the last 30 years. I ran my own business for 27 years until I had a workplace accident a few years ago. I currently hold a certificate 4 in community service child protection and a youth worker.

At present, I have two children in at Montmorency South in Grade 3 and 5. I have been on the School Council for the past 4 years, previously serving on the Council at Concord School. My hobbies are photography and fishing. I think I can bring a mature outlook to the school council. I would like to know how my children are being looked after and I want to help where I can.

Thank you for your time

Philip Jones
Coming from a family of teachers, I'm a strong supporter of public education. I believe in aspiration, diversity, fairness and equal opportunity. As a public servant - and as a parent - I know the challenges of balancing competing priorities with limited funds. My sons, William and Michael, are in grades 6 and 3, and I want to play my part in ensuring that Monty South continues to offer a great primary school experience for every student and their family.

With nearly 15 years' work in local and state government to draw on, I have lots of skills to put to use for the school. This includes project management, grants management, and community development. Having worked in the Department of Treasury and Finance, I have a good knowledge of Victoria's public sector financial arrangements. Also, whilst living in the UK, I worked with primary schools in the north of England to tackle community issues and involve parents in community activities. I aim to represent the diverse range of parents' voices on the school council and hope to contribute to a great future for Monty South. Go Monty!

Neil Walsh
I am father to Maisie in Grade 2 at Monty South and Matthew aged four as well as having 3 grown up children. Qualified as a Chartered Accountant I am Chief Financial Officer with Independence Australia, one of the largest disability service providers in Victoria. In this role I am responsible for budget preparation and I'm a member of the strategic management team. For many years I was President of the Board of the Villa Maria Society and I am aware of the commitment expected of School Council representatives – both in time and contribution. I am approachable, understand the pressures of parenting and feel I can listen to and represent a wide range of school parents. If elected I can bring years of experience in both financial and operations management to the team, as well as years of experience of being a father! I look forward to making a positive contribution to Monty South Primary.
Leanne Rendell

I have two children, one in grade 4 and one who has just started high school after completing seven years at Montmorency South Primary School. I have had a number of roles on Parents and Friends Committee at Montmorency South Primary School for a number of years from social committee member to uniform assistant, school banking co-ordinator to assistant funds co-ordinator. I have helped with the reading classroom programs, mothers and father days stalls, market day and a lot of other events at the school over the last seven years.

My work history is a number of years working for the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in a number of different roles from customer service roles, accounting roles, supervising role and also have been involved in quality improvement programs. Just before leaving ASX in 2008 my husband and I took over a local family business which has been running successfully for over thirty-five years and we have run for the last ten years successfully.

I have learnt so much about the school since my son first started and it has helped by being on the Parent and Friends Committee. I have been very impressed with the level of commitment at the school by the staff and teachers that I would like to continue to help and give back to the school in any way I can. Thank you.

Melanie McMurtrie

I'm Melanie McMurtrie, mum to Sam (5W) and Nick (3R). I have been involved with Parents and Friends for the last 2 years and enjoy being part of the school community and giving back to the school. I am interested in being involved in planning and decision making for Monty South primary through school council. Out of school I'm a Registered Nurse working part time at Austin Health and a Volunteer with St John Ambulance.