



What's On?

Tuesday, 16 February
School Council

8-12 February
SSG Week

Monday, 15 February
**Closing date for School
Council Nominations**

Monday, 1 March
Close of Ballot

Wednesday, 3 March
Declaration of Ballot

Monday, 8 March
Labor Day Public Hol

Monday, 15 March
Swimming Starts

Tuesday, 16 March
**School Council Office
Bearers Elected**

Wednesday, 24 March
AVHS Open Day

Monday, 29 March
School Photos

Thursday, 1 April
Last Day Term 1

**Parent Feedback
Form Link**
[Parent Feedback Form](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that your child has had an excellent start to the school year and it is great to have them back at school and hopefully without any COVID interruptions.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the new families that have joined the AVHS community by enrolling their son or daughter into the school for 2021. The staff will be working with you closely to ensure that there is a smooth and successful transition for your child.

I encourage all parents and carers to have a voice in the school. We are ready to listen to your suggestions for improvement and any concerns that you may have. In doing this please ring to make an appointment with your class teacher initially and if you need to have an interview with the Leadership Team, please contact either Colin, Christine, Susanne, Megan or Lindsey. Appointments can be made through the office or by email.

Parents and carers can engage with the school through the many avenues that are available to do so. School Council Elections are held in February. In this week's Bulletin there is information on the role of the school council, how you can nominate for the school council and the number of vacancies available.

AVHS is an excellent school with fantastic students, excellent facilities, great staff and a school community that is supportive and appreciative of the school. The school will continue to strive to deliver excellent programs and improve the facilities so that every student at AVHS has the best that we can offer in their learning and personal development.

I look forward to working with the staff and the school community to continue to develop the school programs and facilities so that every student has the best opportunity to succeed in their learning and are well prepared to move into their post schooling option.

Student Support Group Meetings: Week 3

As indicated in my first bulletin, SSG Meetings will be held in week 3 of this term and will be conducted via Webex. Parents will need to book a time for their SSG meeting through the Compass Portal that opened Monday this week. The SSG meetings will provide parents and carers the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, hear about the class program and raise any matters that you need to discuss. Please take up the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and establish that important connection so that your child's needs can be best met.



Cont'd...

Compulsory School Uniform

There has been great interest and take up of the new school uniform. Nichole has done a great job in coordinating the implementation and the purchasing of uniform supplies. Nichole has set up a uniform stand to display the uniform items for parents and carers. It is great to see students proudly wearing the uniform. All students from Foundation to Year 10 are expected to be in the school uniform by the start of Term 2.

Sunsmart

Just a reminder that all students should have sunscreen applied to skin areas that are exposed to the sunrays and have a water bottle they can access throughout the day. Students not wearing a hat during the recess and lunch breaks need to stay in a shaded area in the playground.

School Refurbishment Program

The draft sketch plans have been developed. There has been consultation with the staff and the student voice team on these sketch plans. By the end of this week, it is hoped that there will be three dimensional plans drafted that will go to School Council for their feedback. It is anticipated that works on the school's refurbishment will commence around about the commencement of Term 4 this year. This refurbishment work is very much focused on the learning spaces in the school that will provide a much need boost to student areas that are very tired as it has been forty years since there has been any major work carried out in the school.

Have a great weekend and week ahead.

Cheers Colin and staff
at Ascot Vale Heights School.

Key Word Sign of the week

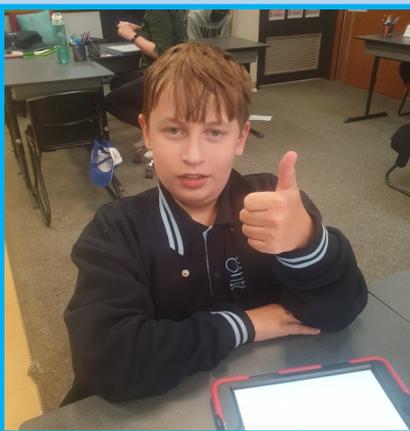
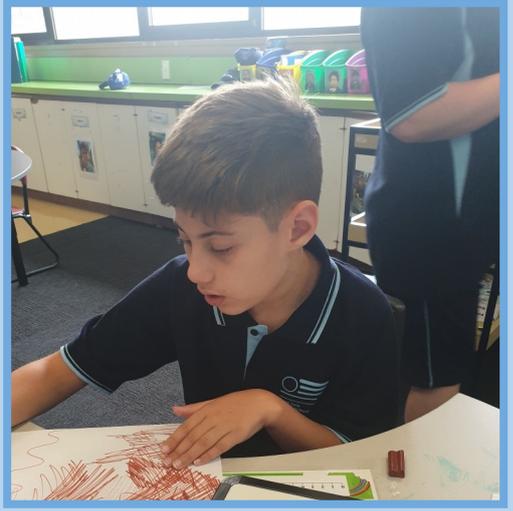
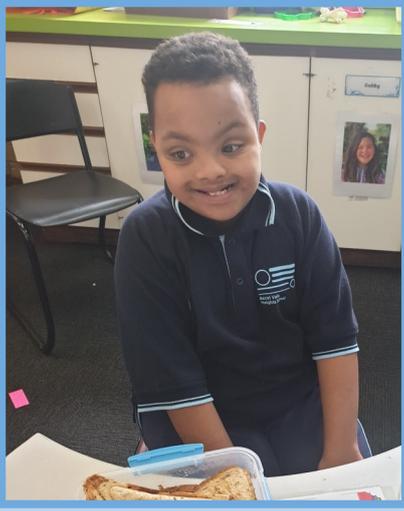
Week 1

School

Move open dominant hand, palm toward head, diagonally at side of face, twice.



The Courtyard Cafe will be open for business on a Thursday and Friday from 11am to 11.30am so please pop in for a cuppa, we'd love to see you!





SSG Online Bookings are OPEN!



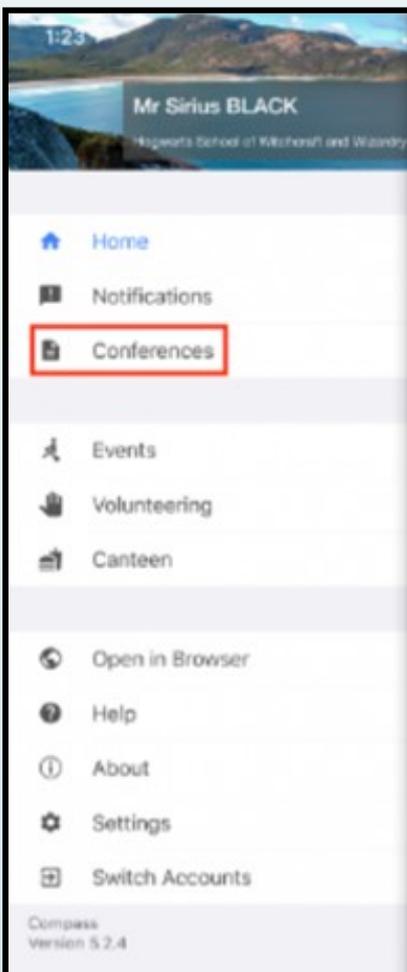
Parents and carers are reminded that Student Support Group Meetings are now open to book an appointment time.

These meetings give you an opportunity to catch up with your child's teacher and can be conducted in person, via phone or by a video call.

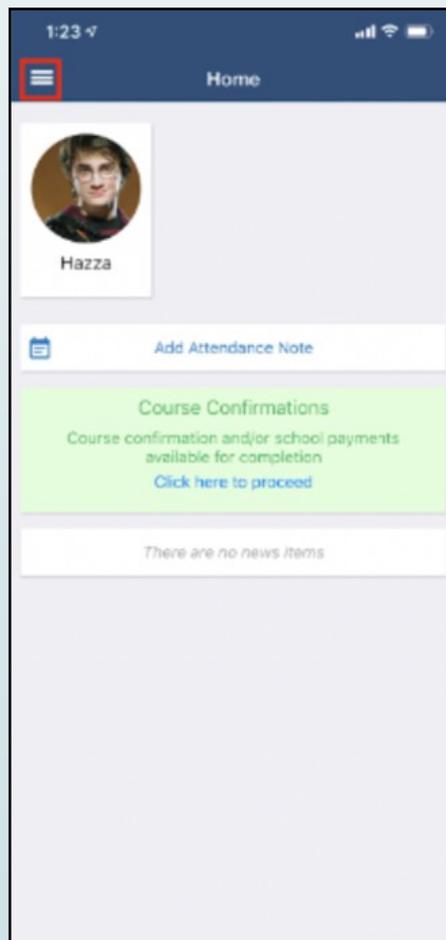
At this meeting you will have an opportunity to have input into your child's Individual Learning Plan. Please book your SSG through the Compass Portal.

If you are having problems you can message your classroom teacher through Seesaw and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

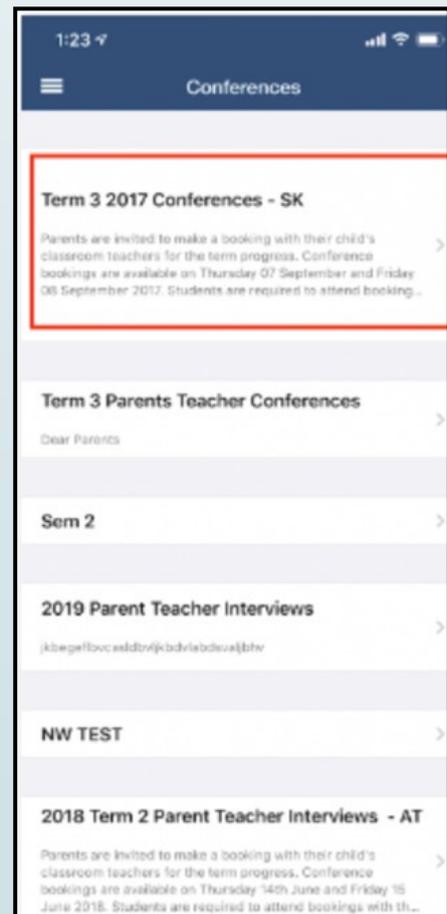
Step 1. Open your Compass App and click on the menu bar



Step 2. Select the Conferences Tab and open



Step 3. Select and open the 2021-Term 1 SSG



School Council Elections 2021

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 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 Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed 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.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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 and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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. Forms are available from the office.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.



**ASCOT VALE HEIGHTS
NEEDS YOU!**

**Have you ever considered joining
School Council?**

**Have your say in how the school
operates and is run?**

**Call me on 9370 8906 if you'd like
to have a chat about
joining school council.**

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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.

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.

Timeline for Ascot Vale Special School Council Elections		
1	Notice of election and call for nominations	Monday, 8 th . February 2021
2	Closing date for nominations	Monday, 15 th February 2021
3	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed	Wednesday, 17 th February 2021
4	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	Monday, 22 nd February 2021
5	Close of ballot	Monday, 1 st March 2021
6	Vote count	Tuesday, 2 nd March 2021
7	Declaration of ballot	Wednesday, 3 rd March 2021
8	First Council meeting to co-opt Community members (Principal will preside)	Tuesday, 16 th March 2021
9	Second Council meeting to elect office bearers (Principal will preside)	Tuesday, 16 th March 2021

School Council Vacant Positions Available

Department of Education Employee category (2) x 2 years
 Parent category (4) x 2 years

The following school councillors, term of office, will finish after the February 16th meeting of the school council.

Member Category: Parent: 4 x two year terms

Ana Sybenga

Joely Curwood

Karen Standke

Ian Hiscock

Casual Vacancy due to the resignation of Raoul Holderhead during the year can be filled by council determination.

Department of Education and Training: 2 x two year terms

Christine Monahan

Unfilled vacancy due to a resignation

Retiring school councillors can seek re-election to the school council for another term of office.

Parents and DET staff can self- nominate or be nominated in seeking a position on council. Please contact the office for a nomination form if interested in serving on the council.

Cheers, Colin

9370 8906—colin.schot@education.vic.gov.au

The Lab



The Lab program is a technology club for young people aged 10 to 25 years on the autism spectrum. The Lab offers mentoring in programming, 3D digital design and gaming, as well as the chance to meet others with similar interests.

Groups	Where	When
Group 1: Ages 10 to 17 years	Niddrie Library	Tuesday, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Group 2: Ages 18 to 25 years	Avondale Heights library and Learning Centre	Wednesday, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Group 3: Ages 10 to 17 years	Sam Merrifield Library	Saturday, 10.00am – 12.00pm

To register for new participants:

1. Visit The Lab Network www.thelab.org.au
2. Click on the orange REGISTER button
3. Complete online application
4. Council will contact you for additional information and provide program details

To register for existing participants:

- Email carers@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- In your email, confirm your attendance by including participant full name
- Council will contact you for additional information (if needed) and provide program details

Cost: \$25 per session (\$225 per term) for Moonee Valley residents; \$50 per session (\$450 per term) for non-Moonee Valley resident; payable at the start of Term 1

The fee covers the cost of our mentors, who are professional programmers, graphic designers, 3D modellers and software designers.

For more information contact Council's Team Leader Disability Access & Support on 9243 1036 or email carers@mvcc.vic.gov.au



THE VALLEY YOUTH CONSULTANTS PRESENT

PICNIC IN THE PARK

JOIN US FOR MUSIC & GOOD VIBES

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY and SATURDAY 20 MARCH

2PM - 5PM QUEENS PARK, MOONEE PONDS

LIVE PERFORMANCES FROM LOCAL ARTISTS

WELLBEING SPEAKERS FROM BATYR



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2YICWGW](https://bit.ly/2YICWGW)

@valleyyouthmv
9243 1225 | valleyyouth.org.au



Altona Tennis Club INCLUSION PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

- Wheelchair Tennis
- Jewellery making
- Face Painting
- Sign language demonstration & presentation
- Group/private tennis lessons
- Lawn Bowls at Altona Bowling Club
- Tennis games & prizes

DATES, COST & REGISTRATION

Sunday afternoons:
7th February - 12:30-2:30pm
14th February - 12:30-2:30pm
21st February - 12:30-2:30pm
28th February - 2:30-5:00pm
14th March - 12:30-2:30pm

\$50 for 5 weeks

Register via:
<http://www.altonatennisclub.org.au/2021-inclusion-program/>
or Margaret Harris: 0412 916 071

Racquets supplied if needed

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Duncan.Legal planning for life...

Duncan.Legal is proud to present a series of Estate Planning Zoom webinars for families with disability.

Evening Webinar Options now available!



Supported Decision Making in Victoria (30 mins) \$49.50 (incl GST)

Day Session - Friday, 05 Feb 2021 @ 11am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOHRT>

Evening Session - Thursday, 11 Feb 2021 @ 7pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOLOH>



Disability Estate Planning (60 mins) \$99.00 (incl GST)

Day Session - Friday, 19 Feb 2021 @ 11am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOHRY>

Evening Session - Thursday, 18 Feb 2021 @ 7pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOLOM>



Special Disability Trusts (30 mins) \$49.50 (incl GST)

Day Session - Friday, 05 Mar 2021 @ 11am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOHSE>

Evening Session - Thursday, 04 Mar 2021 @ 7pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOLOW>

To join us for these webinars, please click on the TryBooking link(s) above (a TryBooking 50c fee also applies).

BOOK NOW! – limited places available.

See overleaf for an explanation of each Webinar.

Senior School Info Session

4 February 2021 04:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

This session is designed to inform parents about the year 11 and 12 curriculum plan at AVHS and look at the programs on offer for all students.

Below are the log in details for parents and all parents are welcome.

Zoom Meeting ID: 969 394 9579

Passcode: Susanne

Drop Off/Pick Up times

Changes to afternoon Student 3pm Pick Up

- Rooms 3 and 4 students will continue to be picked up from the Courtyard area outside of their rooms. Ashleigh will supervise this area.
- Primary students (Rooms 1, 5 and 7) will return to being picked up from the barbecue area in the yard. Megan and the Primary staff will supervise this area.
- Senior and Secondary students will be picked up from the front carpark area of the school. Christine will continue to supervise this area.

By implementing the above measures, the overcrowding that has been occurring at the 3pm pick up at the front of the school will be avoided and improve the safety of moving students out of the school at the end of the day.



Thanks!

Thanks to the following families for watering the garden over the summer break. You all did a great job and it's flourishing.

Patrazalek (Aidyn), Curwood (Emma), McKenzie (Agnes), Bartolo (Elena) and Corbett (Remy).