

Student Leadership 2017

Our House Captains, School Captains and Student Councillors are elected by their peers and teachers to carry out very specific and challenging roles over the course of the year. Students interested in these positions are asked to fill out an expression of interest. They will be asked to reflect on what they have done during their schooling to develop themselves into a strong role model and leader. Applicants will then write a speech detailing the three qualities that would make them a good leader.

All current Year 4s are eligible to apply to become a **Student Council** member in 2017. There will be 12 student councillors, separated into four committees. Gender is not a criteria for selection, all boys and girls have an equal opportunity.

All current Year 5s are eligible to apply to become a **House Captain** or **School Captain** in 2017. There will be four captains selected to represent each house, making a total of 16 house captains and two captains selected to represent the school. As with the student council, gender will not be a criteria for selection, all boys and girls will have an equal opportunity.

When we talk about Student Leadership at Ripponlea, we are not only referring to those with a badge. All Ripponlea students are leaders because we all have the power to influence those around us.

We have a school-wide focus at the start of each year, where each level discusses and agrees upon what they consider to be the actions of a strong role model using our school values as a base. These are found in each learning space, displayed in the form of a 'Level Agreement'. The idea of a 'strong' vs 'weak' role model is regularly explored with all 5/6 students as they have the eyes of the younger students looking to them as an example of how we should interact in our learning community.

At the start of each year the School Captains and Student Council attend the GRIP Leadership conference. The conference is very specifically directed toward innovative ways we can discuss being a strong role model and approaches for building initiatives that the councillors can bring back to our school. This year we are using Student Council circles to convey this message and find our direction, building these initiatives over the course of the year.

The House Captains are responsible for coordinating their House's participation in House events throughout the year. While there are four students that have been elected to carry out this role, we support them in including the other Year 6s from their house in this process as much as possible. The culmination of this is our annual House Music Festival. Houses prepare themselves as independently as possible, calling on a 'House Music Committee' comprised of any students from Years 3 to 6 that are interested in taking on extra responsibilities.

During their time in Years 5 and 6, all students will be given the opportunity to take on a leadership role or responsibility. The School Captains have a wide range of responsibilities that they distribute across the 5/6 cohort. While doing this, they take into consideration those who already have a leadership position because these students already have responsibilities of their own.

Please feel free to discuss the idea of a strong role model with your child. We know we are a strong role model when we and those around us are all acting with integrity.

Tom Scott