“Educating successful leaders, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens”

Calendar (new items highlighted in red)

Jan
30th Wednesday First day of Term 1 for students in grades 1-6

Feb
4th Monday Parent Information BBQ starting at 5.30pm (note change of date)
18th Monday School Swimming program starts & School Council

March
1st Friday Skipton Primary School House Swimming Sports
11th Monday Labour Day Public Holiday
12th Tuesday Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)
15th Friday Western Plains Swimming Sports Grade 3-6
18th Monday Young Leaders Excursion Grades 5 and 6

The website calendar has all the dates for the year and is continually updated.

Principal’s Message
A warm welcome to a brand new year. I trust that you all had a great break and enjoyed spending time together over the summer. It is great to spend time together and enjoy some unstructured activities. I have many fond memories of family holidays at the beach or along inland rivers.

We are excited about a new year here at the school. The staff met yesterday for some forward planning and to finish setting up the classrooms. We welcome Renae Harper to the Prep/1 room, Di Britton in 2, Amelia Pollock and Caitlyn Baird in the 3/4 Team, and Robin Baker in 5/6. We also have three Education Support: Karen Crosbie, Belinda Kitchen and Sarah Meek. Bec Scott is our cleaner and Natalie Clark our Business Manager. This semester we also have Helen Collins as a specialist intervention teacher. Helen is highly skilled in providing extra support to children and she will also be training some of our staff. We also want to take advantage of her expertise in computer education.

Over the holidays the interior has been entirely repainted and Rex and Nigel, from R & N Elite Painting Services, did a terrific job for us. The rooms look bigger and fresher with a new coat. The carpets have also been cleaned by Wayne from Green Cat.
The grass on the ovals has grown really well considering the hot and dry conditions. Brad McLean has been in to fertilise and look over it all. Today footballs have emerged and the ovals have been tested and got a big ‘thumbs up’. Thank you to Natalie for using the portable sprinkler over the summer to green up various areas.

Thanks to the members of council, particularly the Connell family, for keeping the grounds trim and neat ready for this week. Thanks to the Shady family for the donation of mulch. We are having a garden roster again this year. Each family will be assigned a fortnight to do their bit whenever it suits – this is instead of having working bees. When mowing, please do not mow too short, especially in this weather.

A couple of points to be mindful about:

There was a piece on Sunrise this morning about the high cost of schooling. Be assured the council wants education at Skipton to be as affordable as possible – and please see me if you are in financial difficulty. Nevertheless there are costs to run a school. We do have an Essential Items fee of $130 each year. This is not a voluntary fee, but pays for your child’s stationery and for swimming certification. Accounts will be sent out this week and we would like to collect this fee ASAP. If you are unwilling to pay the fee, you can provide your own stationery (please see the office for a list of requirements). We do have a number of other costs and the estimate for the year is presented in a table for your budgeting convenience. I am confident that it is great value compared to other schools! If everyone contributes, it allows the school to use funds on upgrading facilities and equipment.

Our teachers are very willing to speak with you about issues as they arise. In fact, it is better to raise an issue when small than let it grow and become a problem (a stitch in time saves nine). However it is best practise to make a time so that they can be present for you. A couple of minutes before school, or texts during the evening, is not ideal. Classrooms are busy places and there is lot of competition for our teachers’ attention. Likewise teachers need time at home for themselves and family so do not expect them to respond to emails straight away. So please, make a time to ensure you are heard.

Each grade has a Parent Rep. They will be in touch with each family and collate contact details. The parent rep is there for you to ask questions and also for the teacher to share information out. Parent reps are:

Prep/1: Emily Tickner
Grade 2: Hayley Pappin
Grade 3/4: Margot Barr
Grade 5/6: Victoria Kennedy
Finally, last year Council approved an updated Uniform Policy. Could you please ensure that your child comes dressed as the policy. Teachers may send reminder notes home if needed. Remember the school has a supply of new and used uniforms for purchase, and you can also order direct from Impact Teamwear. PLEASE ensure all jumpers and hats are labelled in large print so items can be returned (use iron-on labels or laundry markers). We have republished a summary of the policy and it is available on the website to download.

**Information Night**

Next Monday we have an Information Night. This begins at 5:30pm in the hall where the specialists will give an overview of the curriculum for the year. Then each classroom will have a time to present what they are doing and any routines they have. In the meantime we will have a BBQ so you can have something to eat between sessions.

5:30 – Opening address and overview from specialists in the Mackinnon Hall  
5:45 – Prep/1 (Renee Harper)  
6:00 – Grade 2 (Di Britton)  
6:15 – 3 /4 Team (Amelia Pollock and Caitlyn Baird)  
6:30 – Grade 5/6 (Robin Baker).

Our teachers are also keen to get to know your child and their individual needs. They will be in touch to set-up a time for you to share with them on a more personal level over the next couple of weeks.
Conveyance Allowance

These forms are now available from the office. To qualify for this allowance you need to travel 4.8km or more to your nearest bus or school. Any queries please contact Natalie Clark in the office. If you have previously received Conveyance Allowance you do not have to fill the form in again, it automatically rolls over each year.

Below is a table of anticipated costs for 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Essential Items</th>
<th>Optional Payments (inc camp cost)</th>
<th>Anticipated total for the year</th>
<th>Monthly payment (+12)</th>
<th>Fortnightly payment (+26)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>$9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>$9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$255</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$325</td>
<td>$28</td>
<td>$13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$300 (inc iPad)</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Garden Roster**

We ask that each family take a fortnight to come in when convenient and do some gardening. Jobs include mowing including the nature strip (not too short please), weeding and sweeping paths.

5\(^{\text{th}}\) Feb – 18: Michelle Liston, Jane Draffin and Karen Bodman

26\(^{\text{th}}\) Feb - 4th March: Emma Smith, Amy Sim, Jade partridge, Kerrie Mulcahy

5\(^{\text{th}}\) March – 18\(^{\text{th}}\) March: Natasha Frisby, Elizabeth Kusanke, Alicia Pettigrew, Hayley Pappin
CSEF ASSISTANCE

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps to ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. CSEF will be provided to eligible families to help cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer’s Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

The annual CSEF amount per student is: $125 for primary school students

How to Apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website. All applicants must complete and lodge their submission to the school by 22nd February 2018

If you have previously received CSEF, you do not require to fill in a form, it will automatically roll over.
Furniture for Free:

The school has 7 small tables that are surplus this year so if you would like to take any, it will be first in best dressed!

Working With Children Check
We love having people helping out in the school. It has benefits for the teachers, yourself, but also sends a positive message to your child about the value you place on education. However, being a Child Safe School, we need to have volunteers obtain a Working with Children Check. The whole process is entirely free. Simply fill in your details online and get your photo taken at a participation Post Office (Beaufort, Bakery Hill – not Skipton). We appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au
The Uniform
This dress code has been developed in close consultation with our school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community.

Skipton Primary School is committed to ensuring that our student dress code allows all students to feel equal, and strengthen the spirit of community within our school.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students, allows for students to safely engage in the many varied school activities, and is cost effective for families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jumper/Vest</td>
<td>Red polar fleece with traditional Skipton Primary School building logo. Navy polar/vest fleece with traditional Skipton Primary School building logo. There is a special rugby top reserved for Grade 6 (not compulsory).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo shirts/skivvies</td>
<td>Red long and short sleeved with traditional Skipton Primary School building logo. Red long and short sleeved polos/skivvies may be worn without school logos if they are the same red as the official uniform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats</td>
<td>Navy broadbrim (without decoration or brand name). These may be purchased from Skipton Primary School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresses</td>
<td>Summer dress with blue and white checks to be worn with navy blue undershorts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pants</td>
<td>Plain, navy blue track pants (without decoration or brand name).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorts/Skorts/Skirts</td>
<td>Plain navy blue shorts/skorts/skirts (without decoration or brand name). If wearing skirts, students to wear navy blue undershorts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks</td>
<td>Navy blue or white only. No coloured socks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footwear</td>
<td>Appropriate footwear is to be worn at all times. Sandals with covered toes, black or brown school shoes, pull on school boots or runners are permitted. No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Rain Coat</td>
<td>Navy Blue coat with red collar and traditional Skipton Primary School building logo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Optional Item)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport uniform</td>
<td>Red polo top with navy blue shorts/skirt/skort/track pants. Runners are encouraged as part of school sports uniform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headwear</td>
<td>Navy blue, red or white headbands, hair ties, hair ribbons, scrunchies or headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Sports</td>
<td>The school runs intra-school activities (eg. swim sports, athletics sports) where children compete in house groups. The houses are Mackinnon (green), Russell (red), Bolte (white or navy) and Anderson (yellow). Children are encouraged to come dressed in their colours for these events, and involve themselves in the spirit of the day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>