



**"Educating successful leaders, confident and creative individuals
and active and informed citizens"**

Newsletter No. 30 – 18th September 2020

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Principal's Message

Proud & Grateful

I spent a part of the day yesterday randomly checking into some of the conferences where students shared their learning journey in Term 3. I am incredibly proud of all of our students and the levels of adaptability and resilience that they have shown. I'm sure some families may feel that there were some hard moments in remote learning, however I encourage you to take some time as parents to reflect on this journey for yourself and hopefully you will remember the extra family time, the little one-off activities like reading and dancing and cooking. Hopefully in time, the technical challenges, the "I don't know how" moments and the harder days will become a distant memory.

I wish to express my significant thanks to so many of the families who have sent emails of support, who have expressed their gratitude via the phone and who have cooked the staff lunches and brought us gifts. We are very grateful to those of you who took the time out of your days to do these things. These are the moments that will stick with me from Term 3.

I wish to reiterate my ongoing support for all of the staff at this school. Their unwavering commitment to your children's learning is infectious and I am inspired by the innovation and time that they have put in this term.

Moving Forward as a Partnership

I am sure there will be some families that are concerned with the learning growth that their child has made during Terms 2 and 3 this year. I hope the extensive plans outlined in the sub-headings *Differentiation & Assessments & Auslan* and *Events Calendar* will highlight the extensive strategic planning the school has undertaken for this term. The school is ready. I am also confident that many families will seek out advice, guidance and co-planning with teachers and the principal in Term 4. I request that when families are interacting with staff, there is only one question in the forefront of our minds:

How can I enhance this partnership to ensure the best outcomes for my child?

Too often in my six months at Skipton Primary, I have found myself feeling like I am required to 'defend' the school's actions. At times, conversations and meetings and phone calls have become adversarial and this doesn't lead to the best outcomes. All research regarding education points to the need for a healthy, positive and open relationship between school and family. Just to be clear, I always want you to ring and email and come in for a chat. I would never ask you to stop asking questions or to stop bringing the needs of your child to our attention. The staff and I are always available to communicate with you at this school.

Differentiation & Assessments & Auslan

The priority for Term 4 will be the differentiation of teaching. It is likely that students will return to Term 4 in a variety of learning points. Staff will be working tirelessly to ascertain your child's learning level and tailor their program to ensure best outcomes.

Michelle Liston has been employed for a number of weeks to support staff with the conducting of formal assessments. Your child may be assessed by Michelle in the coming weeks and this is a deliberate strategy to ensure that the time our teachers have with your children is maximised in Term 4. Michelle will also continue the Auslan program for Term 4, which has been well received by the school community.

Mentoring & Support

As soon as the Department guidelines allow for volunteers on site, the school will be asking for willing parents to come on site and support our students in their learning. Particularly in the area of reading, research shows extensive growth can be achieved with increased read-aloud and comprehension sessions. Willing families will be provided a couple of training sessions before entering the rooms. If parents are interested in taking part, please let me know and I will communicate with you as soon as this is a possibility.

Return Date

The return date for face-to-face learning is Monday, 5th October. Some reminders for this date include:

- Please send your child's scrap books back with their tub of materials.
- Please bring back any devices that were loaned out for the period of remote learning.
- Please send your child with a broad-brim hat and a water bottle (bubble taps will still be out of use).

The school is required to temperature check students on their way into rooms. Students who record a high temperature will be isolated from classrooms for 30 minutes and re-tested. Should a child have a high temperature the second time, family will be asked to collect their child. All other risk minimisation strategies will continue in term 4, including regular use of hand sanitiser, outdoor assemblies and monitoring of student health.

Events Calendar

The school has provided an Events Calendar for Term 4. As mentioned on Wednesday in the Compass and Facebook posts, some events have been cancelled for 2020 – these include the Writer's Festival and the Concert.

Week 1		
Mon 5 th	Students return to face-to-face learning	
Mon 5 th	Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee (3pm-4pm)	Virtual or in the hall
Mon 5 th	Environment Sub-Committee (4:30pm-5:30pm)	Virtual or in the hall
Tue 6 th	Finance Sub-Committee (8:30am-9:30am)	Virtual or in the hall
Tue 6 th	Policies Sub-Committee (9:30am-10:30am)	Virtual or in the hall
Week 2		
Mon 12 th	School Council (6:15pm-7:15pm)	Virtual or in the hall
Wed 14 th	Grades 3-6 Winter Sports (afternoon)	At the school and the oval
Thu 15 th	School Photos Day (full uniform please)	
Thu 15 th	Grade 5/6 Health Session with Nurse (afternoon)	At the school
Fri 16 th	Parent's Club meeting 2:00pm	At the school
Week 3		
Wed 21 st	Grades 3-6 Winter Sports (afternoon)	At the school and the oval
Wed 21 st	Grade 5 students meet their Kinder Buddy	Virtual
Thu 22 nd	Grade 5/6 Health Session with Nurse (afternoon)	At the school
Fri 23 rd	Public Holiday – Grand Final Day	
Week 4		
Mon 26 th	Grandparents Day	Virtual – Altered format
Wed 28 th	Cricket Grades 3-6 (afternoon)	At the school
Wed 28 th	Prep students meet their Kinder friend	Virtual
Thu 29 th	Grade 5/6 Health Session with Nurse (afternoon)	At the school

Week 5		
Tue 3 rd	Public Holiday – Melbourne Cup Day	
Wed 4 th	2021 Prep parents Meet n Greet	Format and time to be confirmed
Wed 4 th	Cricket Grades 3-6 (afternoon)	At the school
Thu 5 th	Summer Sports Day for all students	At the school
Week 6		
Tue 10 th	Young Leaders Day for Grade 5/6	At the school in an altered format
Wed 11 th	Kinder students visit the school from 1:20pm-2:20pm	Pending
Thu 12 th	Grade 4-6 Health & Identity Day	At the school
Week 7		
Wed 18 th	Kinder students visit school for Story Time 9am-10am	Pending
Thu 19 th	Prep/1 Theme Day	Pending
Week 8		
Mon 23 rd	Grade 5/6 Camp to Cave Hill Creek (two nights, three days)	Pending
Wed 25 th	Kinder students visit school for Story Time 9am-10am	Pending
Fri 27 th	Grade 2/3 Late Stay	Pending
Week 9		
Wed 2 nd	Kinder students visit for a half-day	Pending
Thu 3 rd	Grade 4 Camp in Skipton (one night, two days)	Pending
Week 10		
Tue 8 th	State-wide Transition Day	Format pending
Thu 10 th	2021 Prep Parents Information Session	Format pending
Fri 11 th	Grade 6 Graduation Dinner	Pending
Week 11		
Thu 17 th	Last day of school for 2020 – 1:30pm finish	

If the word 'pending' appears, this means that in the current guidelines, these events can't go ahead. The school is very hopeful that DET guidelines will ease to enable these activities – in particular, the kinder transition sessions and the camps program.

Have a refreshing break and I look forward to seeing all of our students on Day 1 of the new term!

Nick Keating

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, weeding and sweeping paths. First name in list to coordinate please.

17th Sept- 8th Oct: Fiona Meek, Michelle McIntyre, Karen Bodman, Helen Purvis

15th Oct – 28st Oct: Lisa Wills , Rosie Weatherly, Wendy Carroll, Simone McAuliffe

29th Oct – 11th Nov: Gavin Corbett, Chris Shady, John Gardner, Scott Barr

School Photo Day is fast approaching



***Have your child's school memories captured forever
on Thursday 15th October 2020***

Your photo order envelopes will arrive shortly. Please start planning your purchases and payment options.

Remember these helpful points:

- Read all relevant instructions for your preferred payment method.
All payments are due by photo day.
- You may pay **online** using your credit card. Each child will have an individual 'shootkey' listed on their envelope. This will help identify your child's order.
- You may pay by cash using the individual envelope provided.
Please enclose correct money as no change will be given.
- *Sibling photo envelopes are available at the school office upon request. THESE PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN DURING SCHOOL, ON PHOTO DAY, USUALLY AT RECESS*
 - Please instruct siblings to attend the photo studio during this time. Photographers are unable to search for students who do not attend.
- Do not seal envelopes inside each other. You may include payment for all children in one envelope, however, please indicate on this envelope the names of all the children you are paying for.
- **All students should wear their correct school uniform**

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact

MSP Photography

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You're invited to participate in marking this time in our history!

Skipton Primary School students are writing a letter titled 'Dear Skipton' to remember what life was like in 2020.



We are all living through a very unusual time in history. The corona virus has forced us to change the way we live, on a daily basis. The last time anything quite like this happened in Australia was just over 100 years ago and it may be another 100 years until it might happen again.

It is important for us to document our experiences, so that people in the future can learn from us. Your task for this week is to write a letter addressed to Skipton. In this letter, you might include some of the following aspects:

- What parts of life have changed?
- How these changes have made me feel?
- What are things that me and my family miss doing?
- What things that we are doing now, that we weren't doing before?
- What are new things that our family enjoy doing?

Teachers have created a clip (found on the School's YouTube Channel) to help you with your ideas!

Below is a QR code that people can open their camera app on their phone to watch the video.

Alternatively, the link to the Dear Skipton video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ48aMnN3yM>



You can deliver your letters to the box at the school office.

If you have any questions, please contact Nick on 5340 2002.