



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

Principal’s Message

The Concerts

I would again like to extend my public thanks to all of the volunteers, the staff, the students and the families for an amazing concert week. I am quite amazed with what this community is able to achieve. It was so pleasing to see people within the school grounds and able to come together to celebrate the year that was 2020.

Next Week

It continues to be busy here at Skipton – there is certainly no winding down to the end of the year! **Monday is a day of Christmas Rotations**, where students see all of our teachers in multi-age groups to get into the Christmas spirit. On **Tuesday, students will move up a year** level and see what their new classes will look like. I have the great pleasure of working with our Grade 6s on this day to plan the Wednesday activity. On **Wednesday**, families are welcome into the school grounds from 10am to 1pm to view the **Summer Sports rotations**. Families are also welcome on **Thursday to the end-of-year assembly** from 12:30pm.

Building Works

I’ve spent a large part of today holding mini-student forums with our Grade 2-6 students, beginning the process of identifying what they would like to see their school look like for the years to come. Consultation with School Council is this Wednesday. No formal decisions will be made for some time and I will keep you in the loop as we head on this journey together.

Parent Forums

I would like to invite any and all family members to come to either one of the following parent forums at the school:

- Wednesday, 27th January @ 8am or
- Wednesday, 27th January @ 5pm

I am particularly conscious to ensure that all of the decision making that happens in 2021, with both the school review and the building works is co-constructed with families. It is important to me that decision making in the school is consultative and inclusive. The three main agenda items at each of these forums include:

- The building works
- A reflection on the teaching and learning program the school provides
- To promote an environment of high-trust in the school community

School Review

I’m pleased to announce the dates for our School Review. This is an activity that every school goes through every four years. The dates are as follows:

- Validation Day (Feb 23rd)
- Fieldwork Day (Mar 17th)
- Final Day (Mar 18th)

As part of the process, a panel consisting of two other principals, a formal reviewer and our Senior Education Improvement Leader with Les and I will review the school’s performance from 2017-2020 and shape a plan for 2021-2024.



Looking for Volunteers to Support with Reading in 2021

I am so pleased that we can welcome volunteers on-site now. I would like to invite any family members who are interested to come along to a two-hour training day on **Wednesday, February 3rd from 9am-11am in the staff room**. The training will support parents to conduct reading conferences. You don't need any experience or formal training in teaching or education-related work to do this. The school is hopeful that volunteers might be able to come to the school for one hour per week (most likely 9am-10am) to conduct short reading conferences with students on a regular basis. The simple act of listening to a child read and asking them some basic comprehension questions is proven to dramatically improve reading ability. Please note – any person wishing to volunteer in this capacity must complete the training. Families can be linked by video conference if they prefer and I will facilitate other training opportunities throughout the year if this time doesn't suit you. Please RSVP to me via email (Nicholas.keating@education.vic.gov.au).

Newsletters for 2020

This will be the last newsletter for 2020 – the next one will come out on Friday, 23rd January (it's the Friday before school starts for the new year).

Happy Holidays

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break. After the year that we have endured and the looming possibility at one point of limited Christmas celebrations, it is fair to say that I won't take the Christmas and festive period with my family for granted any time soon.

I sincerely thank all family members, School Council members, Parents Club volunteers, the staff and the students for their warm welcome in 2020. I look forward to a productive and exciting 2021 with you all.

From my family to yours, have a very merry and very safe Christmas break.

Nick

The Next Four Learning Weeks @ Skipton:

Term 4 Week 11		
Mon Dec 14th	Christmas Rotations	At the school
Tue Dec 15 th	Skipton Transition Day	At the school
Wed Dec 16 th	Summer Sports Day (10am-1pm) School Council Meeting (9am)	Outdoors at the school Staff room
Thu Dec 17 th	Final Assembly – 12:30pm Last day of school for 2020 – 1:30pm finish	At the school

2021		
Term 1 Week 1		
Wed Jan 27 th	Staff return to work Parent Forum (8am) Parent Forum (5pm)	At the school Staff room Staff room
Thu Jan 28 th	Students return to school 9:30am – Indigenous Welcome Ceremony (all families and community members welcome to attend)	At the school
Term 1 Week 2		
Mon Feb 1 st	Parent Teacher Conferences 4pm-7pm	At the school
Tue Feb 2 nd	Parent Teacher Conferences 9am-3pm	At the school
Wed Feb 3 rd	Training for Reading Conferences (9am-11am)	In the staff room
Fri Feb 5 th	Swimming "Show Your Skills" Day	Skipton Pool
Term 1 Week 3		
Mon Feb 8 th	The Swimming Program begins	Skipton Pool

Kinder Uniform

The Kinder PAG are looking for donations of good quality second hand printed polos, jumpers and hats please. They can be delivered to the box in the school foyer please.



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.

10th Dec – 24th Dec: Erin Fletcher, Petrina Phillips,
Victoria Kennedy, Natalie Clark

Christmas Holidays: School Council









