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

Calendar (new items highlighted in red)

Feb
15th Friday School Bush Dance, 6pm.
15th Friday School Captain Speeches 2.20pm in McKinnon Hall
17th Sunday Fiona Elsey Ballarat Cycle Classic
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 Gr.3-6
18th Monday Young Leaders Excursion Grades 5 & 6

April
5th Friday Last day of Term 1: 1:30 finish
23rd Tuesday First day of Term 2

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

Principal’s Message
The teachers have been busy making times for you to catch-up with them individually. I hope that this has been beneficial to both parties in giving a solid start to the year. Of course, if you need to see your teacher throughout the year, make a time with them. A reminder to respect their working hours and family life by not expecting them to respond to your messages sent in the evenings on that same night.

We had our first meeting of Parents Club this year. Parents Club do a vital role in fundraising for the school which directly benefits your child. For example, they raise funds for classroom books and have contributed to the cost of renovating the ovals. They are currently looking for new parents to join in – and there’s no better way to make new friends!

Last weekend Amelia Pollock and Robin Baker were awarded the “Central Highlands Region School Ambassador of the Year” award from Cricket Victoria for their coaching efforts. It was well-deserved as both spend lots of extra hours with our students on teaching and refining their cricket skills.

This Friday we are looking forward to hearing speeches from our Grades 6s on why they would like to become school captains. This will be happening in the Mackinnon Hall from 2:20pm. We are also going to have captains for Library, Computers, Science, Arts (visual and
music) and Sustainability. These, along with House and Sports captains, give our senior students plenty of opportunities for leading.

Yee-haw! That will be the sound coming from the grounds of the school this Friday night for our bush dance. Ken Hook will be getting lots of toes tapping, and don’t worry if you don’t know any steps because it’s on the job training. Bring along your own food, drink and chairs for a 6pm start, with dancing starting at 7pm. We look forward to an evening of fun and fellowship. Please make an effort to welcome new families to the school.

Swimming lessons start this Friday. Amelia and Di have been really busy getting the program up and running – our program has been feted as an exemplar by the Royal Lifesaving Australia. This Friday is an assessment day to ensure your child is in the right group. Please trust that the instructors are doing the best for each child and may need time to get the groups right. Remember also that school programs have a major focus on water safety, not just stroke technique. The number of drownings this summer was shocking and our first priority is to equip your child with the skills to get out of a dangerous situation.

This Sunday is the Fiona Elsey fundraiser for a Ballarat cancer research facility. Junior School Council has decided to donate a sum of money toward this cause. If you would like to donate, you are welcome to contribute to the amount that the JSC are giving.

Yesterday we said goodbye to Laine Scott. Laine is transferring to Clarendon College because it suits the family lifestyle much better with travelling to Ballarat for after-school sport and providing supervision for Laine. Bec would like to state that it was a very difficult decision and not a reflection upon this school. She will continue to clean for us.

A follow-up on chickenpox from last week. If your child has been vaccinated, chickenpox would have been included on the schedule. Also, if your child has had nits or lice, please ensure you repeat the treatment every few days to catch the hatching eggs. One treatment is not enough to eradicate the wily creatures!

Our February meeting of School Council is coming up next week. This is the last meeting of the current school council – we have eight every year. School councils operate under a legislative framework within the Victorian government school system. They play a key role in:

- supporting the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students
- school accountability and improvement processes, and
- the endorsement of key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents.

We have four spaces for people to serve on the new council, starting in March. Please consider yourself or another person who would like to serve the school in this way (renominations of existing councillors welcome). Nomination forms are available in the office and on the website and need to be submitted by February 18th.
**Sustainability**

All students, except Prep, are taking part in the Toyota Dream Car competition, could parents please ensure students have returned the completed consent form as entries will be posted on Friday morning.

Last Friday we were visited by eight Eco Ninja Warriors from Stawell Primary School. They are establishing their own sustainability program and had a look at some of the things we are doing at Skipton. Grace B, Lucas, Tully and Thomas G took our visitors for a very informative tour of the school and Jubilee Park explaining the things we do at Skipton.

**Scholastic Book Club**

Please return Book Club orders to school by 13th February 2018.

Please ensure that all orders are clearly named with a contact phone number.

If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to “Scholastic Australia”.

Skipton Primary School earns 20% in Scholastic Rewards from all Book Club orders. These rewards assist our school to obtain free books and additional learning resources.

**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.

**Skipton Tennis Courts**

**Official Grand Opening!**

All community members, junior and senior tennis players are welcome to join us for the official opening of the resurfaced Skipton Tennis courts on Sunday March 3rd. A hot-shot session will be held for our junior tennis players from 10am to 12pm, followed by a free BBQ with our generous sponsors and community members.

**Skipton Primary School Bush Dance**

You're invited to the Skipton Primary School Bush Dance to celebrate the new oval and a great start to the year!

Ken Hooke will be teaching the dances on the night! Don't worry if you have two left feet, you'll be up and dancing in no time!

**FRIDAY 15TH OF FEBRUARY**

BYO Picnic Dinner @ 6pm

Dancing starts @ 7pm – 9pm

Please join us for a fabulous night!
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.

- 5th Feb – 18th Feb: Dione Gardiner, Sally Wills, Jane Draffin and Karen Bodman
- 26th Feb – 4th March: Emma Smith, Amy Sim, Jade partridge, Kerrie Mulcahy
- 5th March – 18th March: Natasha Frisby, Elizabeth Kusanke, Alicia Pettigrew, Hayley Pappin

Parent’s Club

Parents Club AGM will be held on Monday 18th March at 2pm. Margot (president), Fiona (secretary) and Bek (vice president) will be stepping off the committee so we are looking to fill a few roles. Parents club fosters closer links between parents, teachers and the principal as well as helping to facilitate parental participation in their child's school. Another role is to raise funds to support student’s education and help with catering for school events. Please consider putting your hand up to be part of Parents Club.

Bradvale Camp Draft

Parents Club have been given the opportunity to cater at the Bradvale Camp Draft on Saturday 13th April, 2019. We will be cooking and serving a roast meal followed by dessert on the Saturday night.

We are looking at raising $2,000+ from this event. We need people to help with cooking food, serving food, washing dishes etc. Camp Drafting is a unique event that is worthwhile seeing at least once! So if you haven’t been before, this could be your opportunity, whilst helping the school raise some funds for things such as our lovely green oval and newly painted classrooms. Please contact Margot on 0418 125 321 if you can help out.

Easter Raffle Donations

Every year the primary school organise an Easter Raffle. We are asking all families to please donate one chocolate Easter item for the raffle to help us make up the prizes for the raffle. A bunny, an egg or a bag of small eggs for example, would be greatly appreciated. All items can be dropped off to the school office and placed in the box provided. Thank you for your kind donations, Skipton Primary School Parent Club