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

**Calendar (new items highlighted in red)**

**March**
- 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
- 25th Monday: School Council (6pm) and Parents Club AGM (2pm)

**April**
- 5th Friday: Last day of Term 1: 1:30 finish
- 23rd Tuesday: First day of Term 2
- 25th Thursday: ANZAC Day public holiday.

**May**
- 1st Wed: Cross Country
- 14-16 Tue-Thurs: NAPLAN
- 28th Tue: Wide Open Road optometrists.

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

**Principal’s Message**

Last Friday, at the House Swimming, was another great example of how our school comes together to witness and celebrate our childrens’ skills. It was wonderful to see everyone have a go in the pool, including many Grade 6 parents. Congratulations for another terrific event and thank you to Miss Pollock, Mrs Britton and Kate Dunne as the organisers of the program, as well as Victoria Kennedy and Sarah Meek as key instructors. Thanks to all the parent helpers, whether in the pool or as walkers. Thanks to the staff for supporting the program, and the children for their enthusiasm and willingness to challenge themselves. Thanks to Parents Club for the BBQ lunch, and the parents helping set-up and pack-up.
The festival of the pool is not complete yet as this Friday we have students compete in the inter-school Eureka meet at Eureka Pool in Stawell Street (not the Aquatic Centre). Then the following Friday we have the WPSSA Western Plains meet here at Skipton. This involves students in grades 3-6 from Lismore, Linton, Derrinallum and Rokewood.

You have many opportunities to be involved in your child’s education. A few parents from P/1 came in and cleaned out the Resource Room, putting all the readers back into their correct box and giving the room a tidy-up. Thank you for this effort.

We also are looking for people to join the Parents Club, which is the major fundraising arm of the school. **We do not have to charge a voluntary fee due to their efforts.** Just recently they have contributed $200 to each grade to go towards buying more books.

And, we have the support of the community and businesses. **Goldwind**, who own Stockyard Hill Wind Farm will again sponsor the Sustainability program for the school. And the **Community Shop** have agreed to sponsor the Grade 5/6s to attend the sound and light show called Aura (previously Blood on the Southern Cross) for their Sovereign Hill costume experience in June.

Next week we have the Labour Day holiday on Monday, followed by a **Student Free Curriculum Day** on Tuesday. The theme for the staff this day will be **Digital Technologies**. We have an expert coming in and leading us into looking at the requirements in digital learning (using computers) from Prep to 6. This will include elements of coding, which is a way of thinking, and also exploring robotics and using online resources and sharing technologies. I have organised the use of a technologies kit through the University of Adelaide for next term so our teachers and children can have a go at some programming. Of course, our students have been exposed to this area through the excursions to Earth Ed in Mount Clear.

Next term I have invited **Wide Open Road optometrists** back to the school. They are a free eye testing service and came in 2017. Stay tuned for more information.

**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. Thanks to the last families for spreading the mulch.

5th March – 18th March: Natasha Frisby, Elizabeth Kusanke, Alicia Pettigrew, Hayley Pappin
19th March – 1st April: Angela Gowans, Fiona Meek, Michelle McIntyre, Helen Purvis
9th April – 29th April: Jimmy Collins, Tim Dunne, Chris Shady, Tracey Miller
Parents Club
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 by Wednesday the 6th March, and placed in the box provided.

Thank you for your kind donations.
**SFNC Under 12 Football**

Training for the Skipton Football Netball Club **Under 12 Football** will start on Thursday the 14th of March at 5pm.

All current and new players welcome to come along. If you have any questions please call James Draffin on 0407 860 997.

**SFNC Junior Netball**

Training for all Skipton Football Netball Club **junior netball teams** will start on Thursday the 7th of March. The under 13bs, bring coached by Margot Barr, will walk across from school together and train until 5pm. This is all girls born in 2008 or later (grades 4 and 5 generally), with new players welcome for the 13b team. Please also pack an extra snack for your child for afternoon tea.

The under 13a, 15 and 17 girls will all train from 5pm to 6pm. An email has been sent with your coaches contact details so if you are unable to make it, please let them know.