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

Calendar (new items highlighted in red)

**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: Western Plains Cross Country @ Skipton PS
- 14-16 Tue-Thurs: NAPLAN
- 20th Mon: Sovereign Hill for Grade 2, Presentation of the 2018 Annual Report 6pm, followed by School Council 6:15pm.
- 28th Tue: Wide Open Road optometrists.

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

Principal’s Message

This week we had the Parents Club AGM. They have had a very successful year in 2018, with over $15,000 spent on upgrades to the classroom resources, grounds and buildings. They raised funds through catering for clearing sales, sports and the Melbourne Cup visit to Mooramong, held raffles and ran a trivia night. They were instrumental in successfully obtaining a grant for the Giant Rockwall, which has been a fabulous addition to the playground and remains the most heavily used piece of equipment. The school would like to thank outgoing members: Margot Barr (President), Fiona Collins (Secretary) and Amy Sim (Treasurer). I am pleased to announce that our new PC president is Jessica Lang-Mulcahy, Vice President: Ange Gowans, Secretary: Amy Sim and Treasurer: Peta Byrne. Thank you for your efforts over 2018 and we look forward to working together in 2019. All parents are welcome to come and participate.

We also had a council meeting this week. The new council welcomed Victoria Kennedy to the ranks and again thanks Gavan Corbett for his time. The office bearers for council are President: Les Meek, Vice President: Anthony Mulcahy, Secretary: Victoria Kennedy and Treasurer: Les Meek. Council approved sub-committees in finance, environment (buildings and grounds), policy and the bus. If you have an interest in any of these areas please let me know as we are looking for people to help out.
Council ratified the Annual Implementation Plan, which has writing as a focus for this year. The 2018 Annual Report was also ratified and will be presented at a public meeting on May 20 at 6pm.

Yesterday we had Jason from Cricket Vic take workshops with our students. He was very impressed with their enthusiasm, cooperation and skills. Last Wednesday we had a number of children compete in a junior swim meet, and on Friday we had some compete at Horsham. Cate Connell came third in the butterfly, Noah swam in freestyle and backstroke and the boys freestyle relay team came seventh. It was good that Skipton was represented in these events.

At assembly this Friday we have a player from the Renegades cricket team making a presentation to our 2018 girls cricket team at 2:45pm.

Teachers have been reporting to me a dropping off in home reading. It is vital that you take the time to listen to your children at least five times a week and make it a high priority. You are establishing and reinforcing the building blocks for their academic achievement, improving their opportunities in life for education, employment, income and well-being. Can I ask that you make home reading a priority please, it really makes a huge difference!

Just one last quick note, we have had a couple of instances of head lice recently. Could you please read the included information and check your children before sending them to school.

10 Benefits of Reading

1. **Children who read often and widely get better at it.** After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. **Reading exercises our brain.** Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.

3. **Reading improves concentration.** Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

4. **Reading teaches children about the world around them.** Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

5. **Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.** Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

6. **Reading develops a child’s imagination.** As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.
7. **Reading helps children to develop empathy.** As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. **Reading is a fun.** A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

9. **Reading is a great way to spend time together.** Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

10. **Children who read achieve better in school.** Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve.

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**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.

- **19th March – 1st April:** Angela Gowans, Fiona Meek, Michelle McIntyre, Helen Purvis
- **9th April – 29th April:** Jimmy Collins, Tim Dunne, Chris Shady, Tracey Miller
- **30th April – 13th May:** Anthony Mulcahy, Rosie Weatherly, Karlie Kennedy, Sara Hernandez

**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. Please contact Margot on 0418 125 321 if you can help out.
While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. The information contained here will help you treat and control head lice.

Catching head lice

Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice.

Head lice are small, wingless, blood sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish-brown.

Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly (usually within 24 hours).

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together.

Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl.

Finding head lice

Many lice do not cause an itch, so you have to look carefully to find them.

Head lice are found on the hair itself and move to the scalp to feed. They have six legs which end in a claw and they rarely fall from the head. Louse eggs (also called nits) are laid within 1.5 cm of the scalp and are firmly attached to the hair. They resemble dandruff, but can’t be brushed off.

Lice can crawl and hide. The easiest and most effective way to find them is to follow these steps:

**Step 1** Comb any type of hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip the hair or crawl around.

**Step 2** Now comb sections of the hair with a fine tooth, head lice comb.

**Step 3** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

**Step 4** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

**Step 5** Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.

If lice or eggs are found, the hair should be treated.

If the person has been treated recently and you only find empty hatched eggs, you may not have to treat, as the empty eggs could be from a previous episode.

Treating head lice

Treating head lice involves removing lice and eggs from the hair. There are two ways you can do this:

1. Buying and using a head lice lotion or shampoo, following the instructions on the product.
2. Using the conditioner and comb method (prescribed under ‘Finding head lice’) every second day until there have been no live lice found for ten days.

If you choose to use a head lice product always read and follow the instructions provided with the product carefully. The following points may also be helpful:

- Head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair and scalp.
- No treatment kills all of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications, seven days apart. The first treatment kills all lice; the second treatment kills the lice that may have hatched from eggs not killed by the first treatment.
- Cover the person’s eyes while the treatment is being applied. A towel is a good way to do this.
- If you are using a lotion, apply the product to dry hair.
- If you are using a shampoo, wet the hair, but use the least amount of water possible.
- Apply the treatment near the scalp, using an ordinary comb to cover the hair from root to tip. Repeat this several times until all the hair is covered.

There is no need to treat the whole family - unless they also have head lice.

Concentrate on the head - there is no need to clean the house or the classroom. Only the pillowcase requires washing - either wash it in hot water (at least 60°C) or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting.