

NEWSLETTER

Skye Primary School

Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

After a few hiccups we were finally fortunate enough to have our official “Turning of the Sod” this morning. Our school captains were excellent ambassadors for our school and spoke with confidence when addressing both the Government officials and DET representative. While building has begun, the ceremony was a very important event because it represents that fact that this project is bigger than just us. It took a team including School Council members, past school captains, parents and community members to campaign with members of parliament so that Skye Primary school was noticed. I remember the day Sonya Kilkenny bought Minister James Merlino to visit us and Harry (our then School Captain) explaining the plight of the Skye Sonics basketball teams not having a home. As I was presenting some of the issues for our school, including drainage and trip hazards, Minister Merlino happened to trip over. I was mortified but apparently we left a mark on him because Sonya remarked this morning that he was only asking after our school last week and remembered his visit. It was thanks to that visit that we received our government funding for the extensive Capital Works project. I would like to especially thank our School Council President, Rachael Dekker and our previous president Janelle Forster-Wilson for making time today to be present for the ‘Turning of the Sod’.

We have received a quote for the gravel path on the oval, which was very reasonable and means that we can go ahead. It will go ahead in the next school holidays because they will have close off the area to bring machinery in. This would make drop off and pick up near impossible so we agreed that we can wait for 5 weeks to have it installed.

Today the new equipment is going into the Prep Backyard. We cannot wait to show you before and after photos. It is thanks to the fundraising efforts of the P&F that we are able to embark on many of these initiatives. The PTF Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 16th February at 9am. I am very pleased to announce that all official positions were filled. Thank you to Renee Brennan who has agreed take on the role of PTF President. Vanessa Balik Gray attended her first meeting and also offered to be Secretary and Ann Bell will continue on as our Treasurer. It was great to have a mix of parents and grandparents join in. Please contact the office if you would like to join us.

In the event that you are unable to come to meetings but would like to help out at the occasional event, please advise the office and we will add you to our helpers list so that we can notify you of upcoming events. For example, our first event will be the Easter Egg raffle and you may wish to pop in and help make up hampers. The PTF would like to start selling cheese toasties on a Tuesday so you may wish to pop up occasionally and assist with that.

Calendar

2021

Wednesday 3rd March—School Photos

Preps commence fulltime

Thursday 1st April—School Holidays

—2.30pm finish

Monday 19th April—Term 2 Starts

**Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th
April—Grade 6 Camp—Waratah Bay**

Friday 7th May—CURRICULUM DAY

Joining PTF does not mean that you have to commit to every event. The more hands we have, the greater opportunities we can provide for our students.

Inspire started this week and there were many excited children in the yard at lunchtime looking forward to getting started on their chosen activity. Ms Hamill has reprised the Gumboot Gang. She and Mrs Drew from the office are working with a group of future landscape gardeners and environmentalists to help beautify our school. Mrs Mulholland had a very special guest join karate and by all accounts the students were very impressed with her skills and knowledge of the art. We will have some reports screening on Skye TV in coming weeks. If you have some time to spare every second Wednesday, we would welcome any expertise or help during many of our Inspire sessions.

Have a great fortnight everyone!

Jane Briffa



Kitchen Garden Volunteer Wanted

The Kitchen Garden Program relies on many people for it to work to its full potential and the volunteer body is one of the most important facets of the program. In 2019 and the beginning of 2020 we had many volunteers who came in whenever they were available. I personally loved getting to know members of our community and I know the students did too. It is a wonderful way to get involved in our school.



If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen or garden I would love to hear from you (please leave your name and contact details at the office). If you know of anyone in our community that might like to assist please let myself or the office staff know.

Kind regards,

Inger Furlong

Kitchen Garden Specialist



Don't Forget - School Photos -



Wednesday 3rd March 2021

School Photo envelopes have been sent home please check your child's bag. These envelope needs to come back with them on photo day - please read the instructions on the envelope regarding payment on-line or by cash.

If you require a Sibling envelope or you are an Alternate family and need an extra envelope these are available from the office.

Parents are welcome to bring their children to school from 8.00 to 8.40am for sibling photos, this worked particularly well last year - these photos will be taken in the BER building at the rear of the school in the Grade 3 end. Any siblings that don't make it before school will have these photos taken at lunch time.

School Captains, House Captains and SRC Captains and Play Leaders will have their photos taken at 8.55am so please have your children at school on time.

P.T.F. News

[IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! -Skye Primary School Easter Raffle](#)

Our Easter raffle and colouring competition are back and will be drawn on the 1st of April.

The PTF are seeking donations of Easter Eggs and accessories for some fabulous prizes.

Please take any donations to the School Office by **Friday the 26th of March**

All donations big and small will be much appreciated.

Thank you in Advance and Happy Easter.



Tutor Learning Initiative

The 2020 school year was an extraordinary and challenging one for every school community. Our students spent much of Terms 2 and 3 this year learning remotely and Victorian schools and their communities have made an exceptional effort to provide continuity of teaching and learning to our students during this time.

During Term 4, schools focused on supporting students' mental health and wellbeing, in addition to assisting students to readjust to on-site learning. Teachers have also been focusing on assessing student learning, addressing individual learning gaps and identifying those students who need extra support for their learning, using classroom-based observation and assessments.

We know that the remote learning experience was different for every student. While some students thrived, some students may not have engaged as fully with remote learning. For most of our students, regular high-quality teaching in 2021 will be enough to help them progress to the expected level of learning. Some students will benefit from additional intensive learning support in 2021.

[As you may be aware, in response to this, the Victorian Government is investing \\$250 million in the Tutor Learning Initiative to enable schools across Victoria to engage around 4,100 teachers as tutors in 2021 to support students who need extra assistance with their learning.](#)

Individual schools will determine how this initiative is best implemented for their students and will ensure that students will get this support in a way that minimises disruptions to other learning or school activities. By engaging additional teachers to support children with intensive learning, classroom teachers will have greater capacity to ensure that all other students' achievement, engagement and wellbeing needs are met, so that all students receive the support they need in 2021.

Anita Blenkiron, supported by Lisa Male, will be working as Skye Primary School's tutors throughout the year, working closely with classroom teachers to support students in the area of Mathematics. She has begun to meet with her first intake group and is excited to begin this initiative. As the year progresses, further intake groups of students will commence on the Tutor Learning Initiative. We are thrilled to have received this support from the Government and are excited to see the impact this initiative has on the learning of our students.

Victorian High Ability Programme

Each term, students from Year Five and Six are centrally selected by the Department of Education to participate in the Victorian High Ability Programme for English and Mathematics, based on their high achievements in these areas. This is a relatively new initiative as the first intake was in Term Four last year, where we had eight students selected. We have been very lucky to have a significant number of students again selected to participate, for both streams of the programme.

During their course, participants collaborate with students from other schools in web-based lessons with teachers from Virtual Schools Australia. Students use Webex, a closed blog, online surveys and good old-fashioned exercise books during their sessions to support their learning. Congratulations to Toby, Zoe, James, Vincent and Shaun who are all participating in the Term One intake. I am thrilled to be able to support our students to access such wonderful extension opportunities and provide a space to collaborate with other like minds.



Calling all Dads and Father figures!

We are in the process of forming a Fathering Project Dads Group at Skye Primary School. Research has shown the critical role dads and father-figures play in a child's wellbeing so the aim of the group is to connect, equip and inspire fathers and father-figures in our school community as another way to be engaged and effective in the lives of their children.

Our Dads Group aims to run one activity each term, including fun events for dads and kids. We'd love you to **sign-up to be a part of this group** – use this link to search for our school and click 'join dads group':

<https://thefatheringproject.org/in-schools/join-a-group/>

Getting Involved -

The group is run by dads, for dads, so we are looking for a small group of dads or father figures who would be willing to **become Dads Group Leaders**. You will be assisted by our **Fathering Project In-School Coordinator** Belinda Hazzledine.

The Fathering Project provides ongoing support, training and leader resources including presenters and guides to help plan activities, ensuring the role of a Dads Group leader is simple yet rewarding.

[This video will tell you](#) more about the Dads Group we are growing and how you can get involved as a member or leader!

To express interest in becoming a leader, please contact: Belinda Hazzledine on 9786 1555.

[Check out this clip](#) to see a dads group in action!

You can find more about The Fathering Project here www.thefatheringproject.org

We hope all our fathers and father-figures will get behind this worthwhile initiative.



Breakfast Club — Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Mornings

When—Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings from 8.30am - 8.50am

Where—3A, 3B, 3C end of the BER building at rear of the school

- Breakfast club is **free** however, **if** your child suffers with any food allergies please send a note with them
- Students can attend as often as they like
- Breakfast club is intended to be a fun and social time for children to enjoy each other's company



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

\$125 for primary school students

\$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

