Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to week 5 of term 2.

**Mother’s Day Stall**

Thank you to the Parents and Friends and to all of the families who donated gifts for the Mother’s Day Stall that was held last Friday. The stall was such a success with the profit finalized at about $1,256.00. A wonderful outcome! I hope that all of the Mothers and Grandmothers in our community had an enjoyable day and loved their presents and were recognised for the fabulous role that you all do.

**NAPLAN**

This week is NAPLAN week right across the nation for all Grade 3 and grade 5 students in primary schools. Our students have been working hard each day to put in their best effort. Thank you to the staff for preparing breakfast for those students who have come along before school over the past three days.

**Education Week**

Next week is Education Week in all schools across the state. The theme this year is **Maths Madness** highlighting the many engaging ways that Maths can be taught and the myriad of ways that we can approach and solve a mathematical problem.

The School Open Day is Wednesday 18th. Tours will be conducted for prospective new Preps for 2017. Visitors should report to the office.

During Open Morning from 9.00 to 11.00 in classrooms, the children will be focused on maths activities. At 9.30 there will be a short performance by the circus troupe, the school choirs, the Chinese groups and guitar players. At 11.00 all visitors in the school are invited to come along to enjoy a bowl of soup and roll in the Multi Purpose room provided by the Parents and Friends. The children love family members visiting the school to watch them work so all are most welcome to attend.

**Science Day**

On Tuesday the 17th May (next Tuesday) the students will be involved in a Science Day. Students will be grouped in multi age groups and will rotate through a number of science activities. The science days are always so much fun and it provides great opportunities and learning for all students but particularly for those who have a keen interest in the field of science and technology. The science team have put together a fabulous program of experiments, discovery and challenge.

**Division Cross Country**

On Friday about 50 students from grades 3-6 will be participating in the Division cross country event. The students will be competing against children from other schools in the district at the Bendigo Race Course. It is always cold at this event every year so all children must come prepared with runners, track suit pants and a warm jacket and they can then strip down when they race. The participants will also require a drink and a snack.

**Gymnastics Program**

This Thursday is the final gymnastics session for the juniors this year. It has been a fabulous program with every student enjoying themselves and having progressed with their skills and confidence to challenge themselves further. The Speci staff have been wonderful and supportive and I would like to thank Jets Gym and the LaTrobe teaching students for their fabulous work and program along with the coordination by Mr Broadbent.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact Wendy or myself.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

Di Craig, Principal
SENIOR CLASSES
A very busy week this week with Grade 5 students completing their NAPLAN tests. We have been very happy with the effort and attitude that all students have had this week. Grade 5 students have put in their best efforts and Grade 6 students have been continuing to work hard. A reminder that breakfast will be provided before school tomorrow morning for the students sitting the final NAPLAN test.

Grade 6 students should have attended their information sessions at their chosen Secondary School last week. We trust that these were very informative and that students and families enjoyed the night. If you have any questions please see your child’s class teacher.

Personal Development will begin next Friday. Thank you to the students who have returned their notes to their teacher.

Bec, Sophie, Scott

MIDDLE CLASSES
What a busy week with early morning breakfast programs and NAPLAN going along smoothly with all students showing their resilience and respect of others during the changes of the week.

Camp payment - First camp payments should have been made to the office allowing the camp numbers to be finalised. If you have any concerns please come and speak to your child’s teacher about them ASAP. We are going to have such a wonderful experience together.

Excursion note - All Bendigo excursion notes must be returned by the end of the week. We are going to have a fabulous day out and about learning about Bendigo history.

Home Reading and Homework - Students are required to read at least five nights each week, this is an expectation of their weekly homework program. Homework and spelling lists will be handed out on Friday’s, giving all students 7 days to complete the sheet. Students who do not submit their completed homework by the following Friday will be required to attend Homework Club on a Friday lunch time to finish off, this is to encourage independence and organisational skills on the students part.

Breakfast and Lunch - Students attending school have growing bodies and developing minds. We therefore need to ensure that we are giving them the best possible opportunity to achieve success at school, by providing them with a nutritious start to the day with an adequate breakfast. It is also important that students are coming with a packed lunch and water bottle to enable them to sustain their energy and concentration throughout the day. Students who are well nourished will be able to work to their full capacity and achieve great things.

Hayden Polglase, Julian Regan, Kim Manley, Adam Tanner

JUNIOR CLASSES
This week is our last week that we are studying plants in Integrated Studies. It has been really interesting. Our next topic is mini beasts which will also be fascinating. We have a minibeast incursion coming up next week following our Science day on Tuesday and Open day on Wednesday. This week is also our last week at the gym. Children have really enjoyed this program and have improved their skills.

Our focus in Reading this week is predicting. As children read they make predictions about what will happen next. Parents can ask children to predict when listening to them reading. This skill helps with comprehension and working out unknown words.

In maths this week we have been revising counting and number skills. We hope you enjoyed looking at the Communication Journals. Thank you for the positive comments. We need the journals back now so we can put more items in.

Brad, Jacqui, Felicity, Kylie and Jen.

PREP NEWS
This week is our final week of the gym program. Staff and students have thoroughly enjoyed our visits to Jets Gym and it has been wonderful to see the growth students have made over the past 5 weeks.

This week the children have been practising their letter formation for the letters Ee and Oo and identifying words that begin with the letters Cc and Dd. Our word of the week is ‘see’. In Numeracy, we have been focusing on length and ordering objects from shortest to longest as well as the number 15. It is our final week of studying the topic ‘Plants’ and the students are looking forward to taking their broad beans home this week.

Next week we begin a new integrated topic on ‘Mini beasts’ and we are all looking forward to the Mini Beast Incursion.

We have a busy week ahead with Education Week. This year’s theme is Maths Madness and students will be experiencing lots of enjoyable maths games and problem solving activities throughout the week. The open morning is on Wednesday from 9am till 11am where parents and friends are invited into their children/s classroom to join in the fun. It would be great to see many friendly faces attend. There are a couple of whole school competitions that will be running throughout the week such as - How long is the Speci Hill Conga line? and Guess the combined age of the staff at Speci Hill. There will be prizes up for grabs so students are encouraged to enter.

Next Tuesday is also Science Day and students will visit different classrooms throughout the day and take part in various science experiments.

As the weather has cooled down dramatically please ensure that students come to school in appropriate clothing as many students are coming without a jumper. Please ensure that all clothing items are labelled clearly.

Reminders:  
Education Week – Maths Madness – from next Monday 16th May till Friday the 20th May.
Science Day next Tuesday the 17th May.
Open morning next Wednesday from 9am till 11am.
Mini Beast Incursion next Thursday 19th May

Each Thursday is Nude Food Day (no packaging please)
Don’t forget to pack some fruit or vegetables in your child’s lunchbox for our brain food break at 10am each morning. Please ensure that children come to school with sufficient lunch such as a sandwich.

Children are not permitted to play with toys from home at school so please do not send children to school with them unless they are for ‘Share in the Chair’.

Courtney Lawrence, Emily Jacobs and Jacqui O’Shea

MUSIC WEEKLY MELODIES
JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHOIRS will be performing on Open Day next week.

Come along and listen to their beautiful singing.

MUSIC IS FUN BAND will be visiting early next term. Soon we will be starting to learn the songs and I will be choosing students across the school to be involved in the show.

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTS: During the next few weeks in music lessons we will be looking and studying the instruments in the orchestra.

Music TASK this week is: Name the instruments that are in the Brass family in an orchestra.

Stayed tuned.

Joan Mullen
2016 PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE
Reading is both a wonderful relaxation and learning pastime to undertake. As we are about to start the 2016 Premiers Reading Challenge at Speci, it would be fabulous to see as many students as possible taking part. If your child wishes to participate in this please ask them to collect a consent form from their classroom teacher to fill in and return to the office ASAP.

STARS OF THE WEEK
2 May
Star     Value  =  Respect
Room 2   Caitlyn G.  
Room 4   Harry W.  
Room 5   Taijah S.  
Room 6   Tiara D.  
Room 9   Mikai C.     Rohan T.  
Room 10  Hayley P.  
Room 11  Jayden B.  
Room 12  Tia L.  
Room 13  Riley M.  
OSHC    Mikayla C.  
Nude Food     Room 8 - 3/4 R  
Music     Noah L. TheYouKee Keenan S. Henry C.

WINTER WARMTH
Dear Parents and Carers.
The weather has turned very cold and I noticed yesterday, that many students had inadequate clothing. Please ensure that your child arrives at school with adequate clothing. I would also encourage you to make sure that it is labelled clearly with your child’s name. Students become hot when running around or participating in PE. They often take their jackets/jumpers off and leave them where they have been playing. If the jacket or jumper is labelled it can be immediately returned to the student who owns it. If you are finding it difficult to fit your child out in their uniform please see the office.

There are ways we can assist.
The Head Lice Management program began yesterday. If you have been notified that your child has live lice or eggs could you please ensure you follow up and treat them accordingly. This problem is one that can only be dealt with on a whole school level. One untreated head can lead to a major break out in a classroom.

Only junior classes were checked yesterday due to NAPLAN taking place in the senior department. If parents of senior students could check their child’s head it would be appreciated. We are receiving reports of cases of nits across the school.

Wendy Jackson
Acting Assistant Principal

Please come and join our walking school bus this Thursday!
The bus will leave at 8.30am from three locations

1. School crossing on Specimen Hill Road.
2. School crossing at Schweppes Centre
3. The corner of Maple and Chum streets, continue along Chum and up Henderson Street.
We also pick up along the way!
Come and join the fun, see you on Thursday

Only $20 each

THE SPECI RECIPE BOOK

Page 3
Parent information session will be between 5pm – 6pm. 

Baby sitting is available by booking via the office.

Pizza will be provided after the session for a snack.

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**PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**

**Wednesday 18th May**

Parent information session will be between 5pm – 6pm. 

Baby sitting is available by booking via the office.

Pizza will be provided after the session for a snack.

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**DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE DOING ONLINE?**

Protect your kids NOW with Student Online Safety - an invaluable and relevant Cyber Safety Presentation for Primary and Secondary schools, Parents and teachers - created by Tracey Porter

**PRESENTATIONS FOCUS ON:**

- Bullying.
- Dangers and relevant information regarding Apps/Chat rooms/Social Media.
- How to keep yourself safe against cyber-crimes (bullying/stalking/sexting/grooming).
- Sexual Assault – self respect and empowerment.

**INFORMATION ABOUT TRACEY OUR PRESENTER:**

- Experience delivering up to date cyber safety presentations to schools for the past 3 years
- Extensive knowledge and experience dealing with cybercrime
- An endearing presenter who's engaging for children, teachers and parents
- Provides a unique and essential service to school communities

"Tracey’s parent information night was one of the most successful and well attended nights we had for the year. Parents were still talking about the night for days after. With online media, the way of the future and the interest students have with the Internet and social media, this night is a must for any school!"

Anthony Oldmeadow
Assistant Principal Laurimar Primary School

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Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
**GOLD MEDAL WIN**

On Sunday the 1st of May, Haylee J. competed in the Victorian Team Time Trial Championship for the very first time with her team mate Lilyth J. The girls both won Gold Medals for the U11 category in the competition. Haylee would like to thank Lilyth for being a great team mate. Haylee also thanks everyone at the Bendigo Cycling Club for their help, guidance and support. Congratulations!!

A very exciting cycling future ahead for young Haylee.

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**Education Week 16-20 May**

Next week Speci Hill will be celebrating Education Week. This year’s theme is ‘Maths Madness’ and teachers have planned many fun and interactive games and problem solving activities for students to take part in throughout the week.

**Open Morning**

Parents and friends are invited to attend the open morning next Wednesday the 18th of May from 9am till 11am. Each class will be immersed in some interesting maths activities for the morning in which parents and friends can also get involved so please feel free to come along.

A few whole school competitions will be run throughout the week:

- **How long is the Speci Conga Line?** Students will need to estimate how long (in metres) all the students and staff at Speci would be when in a Conga line. There will be a prize for the closest guess.

- **The Chicken Plop!** All students and staff at Speci will write their name in a chosen square on a large grid. A chicken will be put on the grid and the people whose names it ‘poops’ on will win a prize.

- **What is the combined age of all the teachers at Speci?** There will be a couple of students situated at a table outside at the beginning of lunch and recess next week. Students can enter the competition by providing their name, grade and guess with the volunteers at the table who will record all the information. Again a prize will be up for grabs for the closest guess.

- **Science Day** - As part of the Education Week celebrations we will be running a whole school Science Day next Tuesday the 17th of May. During four sessions of the day students will be in multi-age groups and each group will visit 4 different teachers and take part in 4 different science experiments. Happy Education Week!

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**A4 SIZE BOXES AVAILABLE AT OFFICE**

**UNIFORM SUPPORT FOR PREP STUDENTS**

As part of the Victorian Governments funding for school uniforms, every Prep government school student who is a Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) recipient, is eligible for a funded uniform pack.

If you have not applied for CSEF, applications must be processed prior to June 3, 2016. Please contact the school office for an application form.

**What Uniform support is provided?**

Parents are to nominate which uniform items they require:

- **PACK A**) A rugby jumper and track suit pants / or double knee pants / or girls leisure pant
- **PACK B**) A track jacket

Green notes were sent home earlier this week. If you could please return as quickly as possibly so we can fulfil requests prior to the real cold weather setting in.

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Our children’s future in the very best of hands...................
**SCHOOL TERMS**

**2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM ONE</th>
<th>28 JAN - 24 MAR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM TWO</td>
<td>11 APR - 24 JUN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM THREE</td>
<td>11 JUL - 16 SEPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM FOUR</td>
<td>3 OCT - 20 DEC</td>
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</tbody>
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**EVENTS CALENDAR**

- **Fri 13th May**
  - Cross Country Championships
  - Bendigo Race Course
- **Tues 17th May**
  - Science Day
- **Wed 18th May**
  - OPEN DAY - SCHOOL TOURS
  - Preps 2017
  - 9:00am - 11:30am
  - CYBER SAFETY INFORMATION NIGHT
  - 5-6PM
- **Thurs 26th May**
  - Information Evening - Preps 2017
  - 6:30pm

**SCHOOL PINAFORE ORDERS**

If your child is interested in having a school pinafore for next term, they need to be ordered now.

**Approximate price is $55.00 per pinafore.**

A Special Order needs to be placed if you require one for the start of next term.

Please see Kaye or Wendy at the office. A total of a dozen will need to be ordered prior to make it cost effective.

**ORDERS CLOSE FRIDAY - 10TH JUNE**

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

Please pay account fortnightly. Balances should not exceed $100.

**BOOKING ARE ESSENTIAL.**

**SOME DAYS ARE FULL IN ASC.**

Absences not notified will be charged.

Staff are employed according to numbers booked. If your child is going to be absent please advise by texting the numbers below.

- **BSC - Karen - 0438 062 561**
- **ASC - Leah - 0447 788 636**

The school relies on a number of Volunteers to assist with various programs throughout the year. Please consider coming along to assist and contribute towards the school community.

**CANTEEN IS IN NEED OF NEW FACES.**

**PARENTS & FRIENDS PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE NEAR SCHOOL GATES**

**COUNT ME IN**

Please return to the school office

**Volunteer**

[Volunteer form]

- Canteen duty (only required for the morning)
- Head Lice Check Program
- Parents & Friends Fundraising / Welfare cooking

**SCHOOL VALUES: Resilience, Excellence, Honesty & Respect**