Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to a shortened week 3 of term 2.

School ANZAC Day service

Congratulations to the Grade 3/4 students who presented at the school’s ANZAC service last Friday. They did an outstanding job. I was very impressed with the respect and solemnity of the whole student population throughout the service and in their keen interest in this special occasion. Thank you to our special guests: Lisa, Bob, Bekky and to Mr Polglase for working with the students on the presentation. I hope that parents had the opportunity to view the wonderful display in the front foyer of Mrs Mullen's late father’s World War II uniform, photos, letters home, ruck-sack, personal items, pay record booklet etc. This is such an authentic ‘snap-shot’ of the personal items of a digger and something that is difficult to realize until you actually see the items all first-hand. Thank you Mrs Mullen for putting in the effort to share these treasured items with us all.

Mother’s Day Stall

The Mother’s Day stall will be held on Friday 6th May at school. We are seeking donations to be placed on the table outside the school office. A collection of items is building which is pleasing to see. If you can donate some items, suggestions are: plants, hankies, soaps, chocolates, books, note-paper, face-washers etc.

Team China Dinner

Last night Charlotte K and Luke F, along with Mr Pysing, hosted the Team China Fundraiser dinner at the Bendigo Sports Centre. I was overwhelmed with the number of people who attended which was up around 130 people. This was a fabulous turn out along with the support of a raffle on the night. Special thanks to all families who attended. The meal was delicious and it was a lovely evening. The money raised will certainly support the two students in their trip to China.

Working Bee

There will be a working Bee held at school on this Thursday 28th April. It will start at 3.30 and finish by 5.00. Lucky dips for all students who attend and a snack and drink provided at 3.30 in the staff room. An induction session and sign in will be conducted in the staff room at 3.30 and anyone arriving later than this time will need to sign in at the staff room and to be quickly inducted before being involved.

Head Lice

I cannot stress enough the importance of parents systematically checking their child’s hair on a daily basis checking for head-lice. It is an ongoing process but to eradicate eggs and lice from your child’s hair this process has to be carried out and maintained. Expensive treatments do not have to be purchased if you use hair conditioner and comb through wiping the comb afterwards each evening. If some children come to school with lice it makes it difficult for others to maintain a head lice outbreak.

Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Cross Country and who put in their best effort. Thank you to Mr Broadbent for his organisation of this event. A number of students will be heading off to the district cross country in the near future. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact Wendy or myself. Have a wonderful week ahead.

Di Craig, Principal
SENIOR CLASSES
Week 3 already, the term is flying by! The students finished off last week with a beautiful ANZAC Day ceremony run by the Grade 3/4 students. It was fabulous to see all students respectfully reflect on what ANZAC Day means to them, their families and our country.

We then had our school Cross Country. Students participated enthusiastically and it was great to see some fabulous results on the day.

Stay tuned for Mr Broadbent’s Cross Country update.

In Literacy, students have been continuing to develop their narrative writing skills by looking at the structure of narratives and language features such as similes and metaphors. They have also been exploring authors purpose during reading sessions. In Numeracy, students have been exploring equivalent fractions and will move onto developing their understanding of money.

We have a few busy weeks coming up. In Week 5 the Grade 5 students will participate in NAPLAN. Students are well prepared, however you can support them at home by ensuring that they are getting adequate sleep and are eating a nutritious breakfast. This helps to prepare your child for the day ahead.

All Grade 6 students should have returned their family email address information to school. If not, it is likely that families could miss out on important information that is being shared from the high schools. If you need another form, please see your child’s class teacher ASAP. Please note the information evening is May 4th at all the secondary colleges. It is important that you attend the evening to be informed of the transition process.

Please return your child’s Personal Development forms to their classroom teacher ASAP.

Later in the term, Grade 5/6 students will be going on an excursion to Melbourne Museum and Imax. More information regarding this excursion will be sent out next week. The excursion will have an approximate cost of $40-$45.

Bec, Sophie, Scott

MIDDLE CLASSES
Last week was a very exciting one with grade 3/4 students taking an active role in the ANZAC assembly. We read and researched many letters and stories about the fighting at Gallipoli. Thank you to all students for the respectful way they behaved during the service it was outstanding.

Excursions in Term 2 - This term our Integrated Topic is Remembering Bendigo. We will be researching Bendigo’s gold mining history and the changes to our city. An excursion note will be sent home next week in preparation for the two excursions we will be taking during the term.

Tissues - With the cooler weather approaching and students using tissues more frequently, it would be wonderful if each family could donate a box of tissues to the classroom in the next few weeks.

Camp - Our Term 4 Camp to Queenscliff - 1st payment is now due. Families need to make the $80 payment to the office ASAP. Second payment will be due early in term 3.

Home Reading and Homework - Students are still encouraged to read at least five nights each week. Homework and spelling lists will be handed out this Friday and every Friday thereafter. 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.

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, this is especially important as we come into NAPLAN time. 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.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you wish to speak with us at any time please make an appointment time for a catch up, as early mornings are often unable to give you the attention and time you require or deserve.

Hayden Polglase, Julian Regan, Kim Manley, Adam Tanner

JUNIOR CLASSES
Two weeks have passed quickly by and we have been very busy. Last week we had a very informative ANZAC ceremony. Following this children were able to share facts that they learned during the presentation.

We are continuing to study plants in Integrated Studies. Our beans have sprouted and are ready to be planted in pots or in the garden. Children have been measuring their growth and recording changes in their appearance. We have been writing information reports as we research different types of plants and find out interesting facts. Did you know some plants are carnivorous?

In maths we have been looking at place value and time. Children are encouraged to read clocks at home so they can further their skills in telling the time in real life situations such as when their favourite TV show comes on.

We would like to thank parents who take the time to listen to their child reading. It really does make a difference.

Have a great week
Brad, Jacqui, Felicity, Kylie and Jen.

PREP NEWS
The Prep students had a very productive week last week and enjoyed many learning experiences. A highlight of the week was our class language experiences were students were taken to the staffroom to make jelly when learning about the letter Jj. They couldn’t wait to return to school on Tuesday after their long weekend because they knew there was jelly waiting for them.

We are now up to our third week attending the Gym program and it has been fantastic to see children growing in confidence and building up their gross motor skills. We are so proud of the skills we have seen and the encouragement children have been offering to one another during the sessions. Children are reminded to wear suitable clothing for gym and to come to school with their hair tied up and earrings removed or covered.

This week the children have been practising their letter formation for the letters TT and li and identifying words that begin with the letters Ww and Zz. Our words of the week are ‘is’ and ‘it’ and students are enjoying finding words they have learnt in their books during Independent Reading. In Numeracy, we have been focusing on patterns, the number 13 and skip counting by 5s. Students are encouraged to practise counting collections of objects at home correctly by touching each object as they count.

Thank you very much to those families who donated boxes of tissues last week. It is very much appreciated.

Reminders:
School photos are next Wednesday the 4th of May
The Mother’s Day stall is next Friday the 6th of May
Each Thursday is Nude Food Day (no packaging in lunchboxes please) Don’t forget to pack some fruit or vegetables in your child’s lunchbox for our brain food break at 10am each morning.

Children are not permitted to play with toys out in the yard 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
- Congratulations to Brylie and Chloe for being selected to sing in the chorus of the Opera, The Marriage of Figaro at the Ullumburra Theatre in July. Well done to Mason and Rohan for a great effort at the auditions. I was very proud of all four students who put in their best effort. Well done.

- In music lessons the Grade 5/6 classes are composing their own music using the Garage Band app on the iPads. Their music must portray a feeling or emotion. Next week they will be playing their music to the class.

- This week we are looking at the music of composers Mozart, Bach and Tchaikovsky. Thanks to Xavier T who was the only person to answer the music questions last week.

- Music QUESTION this week is : What is the texture of music mean? Please write your answer and hand it to me.

Stay tuned…… Mrs Mullen
Working Bee

Thursday 28th April
3.30 - 5.00pm

We are looking forward to a great turn up by all families to our first Working Bee in 2016. With many willing helpers we will have our children’s learning and playing environment looking amazing.

Bring along gardening gloves and any equipment you could use for weeding and general gardening and maintenance.

Please note: There will be a short induction at 3.30pm in the staff room to discuss safety procedures and specific tasks to be done. All staff, parents and children need to attend the induction. Those who miss the induction still need to report to the staffroom upon arrival to read and sign the Induction sheet.

Hope to see you here!!

Personal Hygiene

It is important that students arrive at school clean every day. Some students are arriving at school with either unwashed bodies or clothes. This can create issues with their peers and their self-esteem. Young students need to be supervised to ensure that they are washing all body areas thoroughly every day. As students move towards puberty it is important that parents monitor students personal hygiene as they often do not realise the importance of this and sometimes develop ways of avoiding performing these tasks. Many students in Grade 5/6 require deodorant on a daily basis, although spray cans cannot come to school. At this stage hair needs to be shampooed at least twice a week. Please be vigilant around head lice as there have been several cases lately.

Please feel free to come and speak to me if there are any issues you require assistance with.
PHYS ED REPORT

It has been a very busy start for the PE program at Specimen Hill Primary School for Term 2. Prep/1/2 have started their 5-week gym program at Jet’s Gym on Thursdays. All the students are doing a fantastic job and really enjoying their time at Jet’s, continuing to develop and improve their gym skills and knowledge.

This has been the Prep’s first outside school experience and they have been doing an amazing job with all the staff at Jet’s Gym really impressed with the students’ behaviour and skills.

We are all looking forward to the next three sessions.

Last Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} of April, on a lovely autumn afternoon, Specimen Hill Primary School had their Grade 3 – 6 Cross Country. It was fantastic to see all the students participating and trying their best, with those who competed last year all striving to improve their times. Many achieved excellent results.

I was very impressed with the students during the run, but also very pleased when they completed the cross country as they sat and watched all the other students run back into the school grounds and cheered and supported their school mates. This showed some great teamwork and sportsmanship.

Overall it was a successful Cross Country and all the students did very well and should be proud of their efforts. A big thank you to the staff who assisted who during the event.

The students who finished first in each age group:

9 Year Old Boys – Deacon M
9 Year Old Girls – Taylah G
10 Year Old Boys – Kaiden T
10 Year Old Girls – Haylee J
11 Year Old Boys – Bailey C
11 Year Old Girls – Tia L
12 Year Old Boys – Marcus R
12 Year Old Girls – Broadi T

The top 6 students from each age group will be going to the next stage which is the Campaspe Goldfields Sandhurst Division Cross Country Championships on Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} of May. We are sure they will represent Specimen Hill Primary School extremely well.

Finally Specimen Hill has two teams playing in the Mini Volleyball Competition on a Sunday afternoon. We have had both teams play in the first week of the competition with Spicks and Speci’s winning their first game and Speci Spikers playing a competitive game, however unfortunately they lost their first match.

It is really great to have so many new players playing in the competition and it has been enjoyable to see their development and improvement during training and games.

Thank you for the wonderful parent support during the games it has been fantastic to have all the parents supporting and cheering on the teams.

I also know of many students participating in many sports during the week and weekend and it fantastic to hear about what the students are doing and achieving in their sport. Keep up the great work. Well done to everyone at Speci

GO SPECI
School Camp (Gr 3/4)

School Camp will be held in the middle of Term Four this year. The school will be providing a three-step payment of $80 per term. If families are wishing to pay the full amount, they may do so, however all families will need to pay a deposit of $80 as early as possible to confirm their place.

YOUR FIRST DEPOSIT IS NOW DUE
2016 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Wed 4th May**
SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
Please return envelopes early
Year 7 - 2017 Information Nights
At your Secondary College

**Fri 6th May**
MOTHERS DAY STALL
Please donate gifts at the school office

**Tues 18th May**
OPEN DAY - SCHOOL TOURS
9:00am - 11:30am

**Thurs 26th May**
Information Evening - Preps 2017
6:30pm

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BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
Please pay account fortnightly.
Balances should not exceed $100
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

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MOTHERS DAY STALL
FRIDAY 6TH MAY
Volunteers are required for the day of the stall.
Please leave your name and contact number at the office.

DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT THE OFFICE
Items for the stall will be priced from $1.00 - $5.00

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We have a FREE Rock Up Netball session starting on Friday 29th April 10.00-11.00am at Bendigo Stadium. The sessions are a different way to play netball, in a fun and relaxed environment, targeting women aged 15+ to increase activity levels and provide a social atmosphere. If you are new to the sport, looking to return, or simply would like more netball in your life, these sessions are for you!

Register at: https://rockupnetball.com.au/events/

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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

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the school office.