Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to week 4 of term 2.

Mother's Day Stall - Friday

The Mother’s Day stall will be held on this Friday 6th May at school. We are still seeking donations to be placed on the table outside the school office. On Monday morning a number of parents came along to help wrap up all of the donations received so far. What a fabulous array of gifts we have! My sincere thanks to all families who have donated a gift (or a number of gifts) your support is truly appreciated. To all Mums, we wish you a happy and joyous day spent with your lovely families.

Team China Pre-Departure Day

Today Charlotte and Luke along with Mr. Pysing are attending the China pre-departure day at Golden Square PS. This is an opportunity for the students to sit down and to really meet each other and to carry out a number of tasks that will prepare them for their journey. Washing their Team China T shirts will be a key task, along with how to pack your case and what items to include. Only four weeks to go so excitement is building.

Working Bee - Thank you!

Attendance at the Working Bee last Thursday evening was fabulous. We had a large number of families and children who attended and they all put in a wonderful effort. The enjoyment and pride generated by the children through their participation in the working bee and then to see the final outcome is great to see. Thank you to Mrs Ball, Ms Williams, Mr Regan, Mr Broadbent and Michael Seymour for their organisation and work and to every family who came along to help out. The school looks so much better - thank you.

Annual Report

There are copies of the 2015 Specimen Hill Annual Report available at the front desk for those families who are interested in reading it. The report highlights the achievement levels in both Maths and English in comparison to other schools of a similar demographic to Specimen Hill. The school shines brightly with high levels of success in these areas. Reports on Achievement, Engagement, Wellbeing and Productivity are also included. It is a great opportunity to celebrate the positive progress and successes of the many programs, excellent teaching and of the strong and encouraging home/school partnership that exists in the school. The work that parents are doing at home in supporting the school through the dedicated home reading program, monitoring homework, implementing the values and having high expectations for each child’s progress is outstanding and has made a huge difference. Staff, parents and students should be congratulated for the pleasing achievement. Well done everyone!

Student Reports

Half year student reports will go home during week one in Term 3. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held during week 2 of Term 3. This later reporting schedule enables teachers more time to teach before reporting on each student’s learning.

NAPLAN

Next week the NAPLAN assessments will occur nationally for every year 3, 5, 7, and 9 student across Australia. To assist students we will have a school breakfast program each morning so that students are feeling nourished and ready to give their best. Can parents please support the process by making sure that every child has a good night’s sleep and that they are eating well. It does make a difference. All students in Grades 3 and 5 will need to be on time each day as all students will be completing the tests together.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact Wendy or myself. Have a wonderful week ahead.

Di Craig, Principal
**SENIOR CLASSES**

It has been a productive week in Grade 5/6. Students have been working hard on their narrative writing – most have identified writing goals and are busily working towards achieving them. In reading, they have been exploring authors’ purpose. It is great to see students finishing a lot of books in Reading Eggs!

Most students have established their homework and reading routine for this term and are reading regularly and handing in their homework every week.

Grade 5 students will participate in NAPLAN next week. As always, it is important for students to have adequate sleep and nutritious meals to enable them to concentrate and participate during the whole school day. Our Team China students Luke and Charlotte, along with Mr Pysing attended a Team China preparation day today. We look forward to their report about their experience today and are sure that they had a great day meeting their fellow travellers and finding out lots of information about their trip.

All Grade 6 students should be attending information sessions at either Crusoe College, Bendigo South East College, Weeroona College or Eaglehawk Secondary College tonight at 7pm if they are attending one of these schools next year. Vital information will be given at these sessions. Although some Grade 6 students have older siblings who may already attend these schools, it is important for them to attend these sessions as information can change and the sessions also form a vital part of the transition process.

Bec, Sophie, Scott

**MIDDLE CLASSES**

**Middle Department News** - We are well into our term now. Naplan is next week, Breakfast program will run for grade 3’s and 5’s on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday. All grade 3’s and 5’s are welcome to have toast and a warm milo together each of these days. This will allow them calm time with company and an enjoyable brekkie together from 8am each day. Whole school program as normal on Wednesday.

**Excursion note** - Notes have been sent home today for the first of our two fabulous excursions looking at Bendigo and its history. Please return these ASAP. If you have any concerns contact your child’s teacher.

Also first payment for Camp is now required to enable them to concentrate and participate during the whole school day.

**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 lunchtime 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 help 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**

Children in grade 1/2 have been very busy this week. Congratulations to those children who have read for nearly 100 nights. We are continuing to learn facts about plants in Integrated Studies. We have been reading procedural texts and writing our own. We need to include materials and the steps required. One of the procedures we looked at was about how to attract birds to our gardens. In Numeracy we have been learning about fractions.

This week children will bring home their Communication Journals. We would like you to have a look with your child, write a positive comment and then return the journal to school so we can add more work in.

Gym will be on again this week and on Friday there will be a Mothers Day Stall. Don’t forget Nude Food day on Thursday.

**PREP NEWS**

It has been a busy week this week in Prep as always. We are continuing to enjoy our gym program on Thursday’s. This has been a wonderful experience and each child has made great progress over the past 3 weeks.

We have also been wrapping up our unit on Plants. Our broad bean plants are growing well in our classroom and we enjoy looking at these every morning and giving them some water. We will be able to take these home in the coming days. Our learning focus has been on the word ‘at’ and the sounds Xx and Yy. We are now starting to look at the correct formation of letters and practising this during writing time.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about length, patterns and the days of the week. We have had lots of fun measuring ourselves and objects in the classroom and using chalk to make patterns outside.

**Communication Folders have been sent home.** We ask that you look through this with your child and make a short comment before returning the folder to school ASAP so that Term 2’s work samples can be added.

Today we had school photos which was very exciting!

While the weather has been getting a bit cooler, please ensure your child is coming to school with a jumper and that it is named.

As always, keep up the regular home reading and if needed, practising the ‘Ants on the Apple’ to learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet. Thank you to those families who have donated a box of tissues, this is greatly appreciated (especially with all our runny noses at the moment!).

We wish all the Mum’s and Grandma’s of our Preppies a wonderful Mother’s Day on Sunday.

Courtney Lawrence, Emily Jacobs and Jacqui O’Shea

**STARS OF THE WEEK**

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<thead>
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<th>Room 1</th>
<th>Star</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room 2</td>
<td>Ruby B.</td>
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<td>Room 3</td>
<td>Lara C.</td>
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<td>Room 4</td>
<td>Jaeda H.</td>
<td>Isaac H.</td>
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<td>Room 5</td>
<td>Zara G.</td>
<td>Isabella L.</td>
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<td>Room 6</td>
<td>Bailey T.</td>
<td>Samantha C.</td>
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<td>Room 7</td>
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<td>Tahlia K.</td>
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<td>Room 8</td>
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<td>Kurtis C.</td>
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<td>Room 9</td>
<td>Blake D.</td>
<td>Lucas H.</td>
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<td>Room 10</td>
<td>Alicia B.</td>
<td>Karli H.</td>
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<td>Room 11</td>
<td>Michael B.</td>
<td>Molly N.</td>
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<td>Room 12</td>
<td>Katie B.</td>
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<td>Room 13</td>
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Music: Tahlia P. Xavier T. Jemma R. Jovi B.

OSHIC: Harry W. Mikai C.

Nude Food: Wk2 - Room 10 - 3/4M Room 8 - 3/4R
WED 18TH MAY
9.00am—11.30am
The school open day is an opportunity for future families to inspect the school and view our fabulous facilities.
If you know of any children who are due to enrol at primary school next year, please encourage the family to come along and have a guided tour of the school & discuss our curriculum.
All visitors should present to the school office to be included in tours, conducted by Junior School Council members.
INFORMATION EVENING
THURS 26th MAY
6:30PM
NEW PREPS 2017

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.

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.
We also pick up along the way!
Come and join the fun, see you on Thursday

On ANZAC day, Jazy and Broadi represented Specimen Hill Primary School at the Kangaroo Flat service. They laid a wreath for the school. Jazy and Broadi both wore their Grandfather’s war medals. Jazy’s grandfather was there to see the ceremony. For Broadi’s family it was a significant and special event. Broadi’s grandfather had been the president of the local Kangaroo Flat RSL.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>EVENTS CALENDAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4th</td>
<td>Year 7 - 2017 Information Nights</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>At your Secondary College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>MOTHERS DAYSTALL</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Please donate gifts at the school office</td>
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<td>Tues 17th</td>
<td>Science Day</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th</td>
<td>OPEN DAY - SCHOOL TOURS</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>9:00am - 11:30am</td>
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<td>Thurs 26th</td>
<td>Information Evening - Preps 2017</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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**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

**FRIDAY 6TH MAY**

Volunteers are required for the day of the stall.

- Please leave your name and contact number at the office.
- Items for the stall will be priced from $1.00 - $5.00
- Children should have their money in a named sealed envelope or zip lock bag on the day. Teachers will escort classrooms to the stall for students to make a purchase.
- If surplus gifts are available a second purchase will be granted.

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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**