Dear students, parents and friends,

Welcome to week 2 of Term 1 2013.

Our preps for this year have finally arrived and will be settling in to a 4 day week (Wednesdays off) this week. You forget how full of beans they are and what an exciting and new environment it is for them all. It was great to see the preps attend their first school assembly yesterday afternoon, they were so well behaved and even sang along to our national Anthem. The Grade 5/6 buddies are doing a wonderful job in orientating the children into school and especially into the playground area. Students from Grades 1 to 6 have also started off very well and there is a very calm, settled, happy and productive feel across the school.

School Council

Tomorrow I will be sending home information regarding School Council elections for 2013. Every year we seek nominations of 4 parents to be elected onto the School Council. The duration is for 2 years. Any parent who is able to donate time to attend meetings (about 10 per year) and to participate on a sub committee and has a keen interest in the Governance of the school can be nominated by another parent from the school community or can self-nominate. Elections only occur if there are more nominations than positions. If you require further information in regards to School Council please do not hesitate to see me for a discussion.

AEU Stop work

The Australian Education Union (AEU) work bans are still in place and at this stage there is a Stop work scheduled for Thursday February 14th. This has the potential to affect many classrooms and programs across the school for the day. Some classes will not be required at school for the day so I am preparing you in advance in case other requirements need to be made. I will be informing the school community on Monday 11th March as to actual classes and arrangements for Thursday 14th.

Pancake Tuesday

Parents and Friends will be providing pancakes to the school community on Tuesday 12th February at afternoon recess. Anyone interested in helping to cook several hundred pancakes, please leave your name at the office. These will be handed out to the students during eating time at afternoon recess. (at no cost).

Tissues

Could all children please bring along a box of tissues to be handed to class teachers to be shared in the classroom. This is a great help to the school budget.

School Fees

Included as an insert in today’s newsletter is a note explaining the Student Fees at Specimen Hill. Our school is fortunate in that school requisites are provided and it is a very fair and equitable process. The cost to families is kept to a minimum. Fees can be paid off over a period of time, please see Kaye or myself for further details.

If you are eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) (a holder of a valid health care card or valid pension card as at 29/1/2013) please complete the enclosed EMA application form and return it to the school office by 28th February.

Priority List

If you have any ideas for our Priority List of things to do or projects to undertake or participate in at Specimen Hill please send them along to me so that I can add them to the list. Some jobs have already been completed and other projects are currently in the pipeline. All ideas and suggestions are appreciated and contribute to our vision for the future.

Chinese Teacher

Mr. Juncai Lin our school’s Chinese teacher will be starting at Specimen Hill next Monday. Mr Lin will be taking the 3 Grade 5/6 classes for Chinese and also a Multi age group who have started learning Chinese through the Confucius program last year. We welcome him to our school community.

School Values:

excellence, honesty, persistence, resilience and respect.

A new baby.

It is with much pleasure and excitement that we can announce the arrival of Mrs O’Shea’s and her husband Sean’s new baby boy who arrived into the world yesterday. His name is Flynn Evan and all 3 family members are happy and healthy and doing well. Mr Taylor and his wife Kate also were new parents recently with the arrival of their new gorgeous baby girl Alix born last week. Mr Taylor is just familiarising himself with a new school and now as a new parent! Huge congratulations to both families and we look forward to a visit soon.

If you have any concerns or celebrations please do not hesitate to contact Corey Warne or myself- Di Craig.

Wishing you all a fabulous week ahead

Di Craig (Acting Principal)
CLASS NEWS

SENIOR DEPARTMENT
Welcome to Year 5/6. The year has started off positively with a great attitude from all students. We have commenced the year re-familiarising ourselves with the class rules and focusing on the school values. The students will be bringing home a letter with the rules in it to discuss with you. Parents and students will need to sign off on this and return to school. Our topics for term 1 are What makes a great leader? and Cybersafety. Netbook briefings are this week: Thursday 7th 5pm and 9-9.30 on Friday. We look forward to seeing all Grade 5 parents at the briefings. Netbooks will be allowed home once agreements are signed, payments made and appropriate Netbook usage has been discussed in the classrooms. We are looking forward to getting to know your children and working with them in all learning areas.
Scott, Matt and Anne

MIDDLE DEPARTMENT
Welcome to all our middle years families, old and new! We have had a fantastic start to the year and congratulate all students for settling in so nicely.

On behalf of Hayden and myself, we would like to welcome Adam Tanner and Rebecca Eastley to our team this year. We look forward to learning and working together and I’m sure they will have a fantastic time in the 3/4 area.

Last week, each grade developed their own set of class rules based on the movement, treatment, safety, learning, problem solving and talking of each child. Your child will be bringing home an agreement contract that will need to be discussed and signed by their guardian. Could these please be returned ASAP.

This term we are learning about “Our Sunburnt Country.” We are focussing on historical and geographical elements of Australia. Any books, newspaper or internet articles that students find at home are encouraged to be brought into the class to share with their peers.

How is your child’s reading going?? It is really important that they are constantly challenged and not just ‘listened to.’ What questions are you asking them after they have completed a chapter?? Are they discussing in detail?? Please ensure this is constantly monitored.

We look forward to working closely with all our families. Our doors are always open for a chat, feel free to come and see us or book in an appointment if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Leah Backas, Hayden Polglase, Rebecca Eastley and Adam Tanner

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
Hello to all from the Junior Department. We have a wonderful smooth start to the year.
A big welcome to the new students who have come to us from other schools.
We also have some new teachers too. Mr Taylor in 1/2 T (Room 04), Mrs Mullen in 1/2 M (Room 05), Mrs Manley in P/1 M (Room 03) and Mrs Bergin and Mrs Ball in 1/2 B (Room 06).

READING: All students will be bringing their take home books home every night. Thanks to the parents who have already signed and made positive comments about their child’s reading. Please make a quiet time to hear them read and to discuss the books.
Every morning all classes have an Independent Reading time for the first half hour. Parent helpers would be very welcome to assist in this time to hear students read.
Let your class teacher know if you are available. You would be required to sign in at the office on the days you would be assisting in the classroom. INTEGRATED STUDIES topic for this term is ‘Uniquely Me’.
It is pleasing to see that most students have hats as this is compulsory.
Remember to pack some healthy brain food in their lunch boxes- enough food for lunch and a snack.
Drink bottles are allowed in classrooms so students can have a drink during class time.
Come along and meet your child’s teacher as this strengthens the Home/ School partnership.
Until next week.
Aaron Taylor, Kim Manley, Jo Bergin, Jenny Ball and Joan Mullen
Junior Department.

PREP
Welcome to our new Preps and families!
We have had a wonderful few days and the children have settled in beautifully. This week we are jumping straight into it and introducing the letter ‘S’ (name and sound) and the word ‘I’. Please try and discuss these with your child as much as possible. The children are very excited to be taking home readers each night. Please listen to your children read each night (or morning) and record in their reading diary. This needs to be returned to school every day. This way your child will earn WOW Beads (ask them to explain this!) and also reading awards at times throughout the year. Please ensure your child has all items named (jumpers, hats, drink bottles etc) to save lost items going to the wrong homes. Each day we would like students to have a named water bottle in class and a piece of brainfood.
We have a brainfood break each morning at 10am. Brainfood is a fresh piece of fruit or vegetable (not processed or pre-packaged). This assists your child to continue learning for the rest of the morning. Thank you for your support and we will look forward to catching up with all students during their SEA interview (see your child’s teacher to confirm your time). If children have had toileting incidents in the past, could parents please pack in their bags a spare change of clothing.
Natalie, Di and Kim
KEYBOARD LESSONS
Lessons will re-commence when a keyboard teacher has been appointed by the Primary Music Institute. Parents will be advised.

WELLBEING NEWS
Bernadette Wright, the school’s Wellbeing Officer will be working in the school on a Monday, Thursday, Friday and every 2nd Wednesday this year. Bernadette once again will be working with teachers and students in classrooms with the Wellbeing Program during the day but there will be time available to catch up with students and parents. Parents wishing to contact Bernadette must ring or organise a time at the office. If you have any concerns in relation to your child’s schooling, health, or any personal friendship or family issue please contact Corey Warne so that we can seek a solution or resolution on the issue.

ASTHMA—Can all parents please provide the school with an updated asthma plan for all students who are diagnosed with asthma.

Spacers and Schools/Preschools: Reminder for Parents & Carers
Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms. Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. Some schools/preschools may implement a policy where parents/carers are responsible for the cost of the spacer if one must be used from the asthma emergency kit.

Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school/preschool staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.

PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP
All parents and friends of Specimen Hill Primary School are welcome to come and join our group.
We hold meetings once a month. Our next meeting is on this Friday—2.15pm in the School Library. Toddlers are welcome.
This is a great opportunity to meet other parents from our school community, to socialise, organise fundraising events for the school, and to keep informed as to what is happening at our school.

Important Dates to remember for School:
Monday 11th March—Public Holiday
Tuesday 12th March—Pupil Free Day—Compliance day for staff
Thursday 28th March—End of Term 1
Monday April 15th—Start of Term 2
April 22nd—24th—Grade 5/6 School Camp
Thursday 25th April—Public Holiday
Friday 3rd May—School Photos
Monday June 10th—Public Holiday
17th/18th/19th/24th/25th/26th—Whole school swim program
Friday June 28th—End of Term 2

STARS OF THE WEEK
4th February
Rm 1
Rm 2
Rm 3 Riley N
Rm 4 Haylee J
Rm 5 Savanna S
Rm 6 Bronte B
Rm 7 Broadi T; Anthony Mc; Michael E
Rm 8 Tayla H
Rm 9 Kaleb K
Rm 10 Kearley S
Rm 11 Keely T
Rm 12 Cassidy S
Rm 13 Liam P
Phys Ed Makenze T

UNIFORM ORDERS 2013
Mesh Shorts & School Dresses have arrived

Library Bags—To protect our books we encourage all children to have a library bag. Some will be available for sale for $2 from Mrs Young. Children are welcome to use a plastic shopping bag, pillow case or other containers to protect books from drink bottles and sandwiches.

$10 FINE FOR LIBRARY BOOKS NOT RETURNED

NEWSLETTERS & INFORMATION
are available from our website:
www.shps1316.vic.edu.au
SCHOOL CANTEEN
The Canteen will start operating from Monday 11th February. Lunch orders are available on Mondays and Fridays. Please place your order in the lunch bag, or on a brown paper bag, with your child’s name and room number, and correct change if possible. Your child is to place the completed order in the lunch tub in your child’s classroom on the canteen day, and your child’s lunch will be delivered to his/her room at lunchtime. After lunch sales are available to purchase from the canteen over the counter from 11.15am—11.30am.

The school lunch menu (on orange paper) is included in today’s newsletter.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
NEW ENROLMENT FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED FOR 2013
ASHC Phone: 0447 788 636
Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations
BSHC Phone: 0438 062 561
Please ensure your child has a broad brim hat at OSHC
Please remember to pack an extra healthy snack if your child is attending After School Care. Children are often still hungry after the snack provided.
After School Care program—Closes at 6.00pm.
Late pick ups may incur an extra fee!!

Food ideas for busy parents
Snacks
Snacks are just as important as meals for children’s nutrition. Three meals and two snacks a day is ideal for young children. Most foods offered at meals can also be offered as snacks. The most common suitable snacks include breads and cereals, fruit, and milk-based drinks. Snacks do not have to be large, just nutritious. Try some of these snack ideas:
• One or two biscuits with cheese
• A piece of fresh fruit
• Small bowl of tinned or stewed fruit
• Small glass of fruit smoothie
• Small tub of yoghurt
• A few vegetable sticks (for young children, steam vegetables until soft)

Some helpful tips for planning ahead
• When you have time to cook, make twice as much as you need and freeze the extra portions for another meal.
• Stock the pantry with a few useful ingredients, such as tomato-based pasta sauces, stock powder, pasta, rice, couscous, baked beans and canned foods like tuna, salmon, tomatoes, corn, beans and chickpeas.
• Stock the fridge and freezer with things like cheese, eggs and frozen vegetables and stir fry mixes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!!
CANTEEN The school requires a number of volunteers in order for our Canteen to run successfully. Please consider assisting Karen Emerson if you are available on Monday or Friday mornings. No qualifications necessary, just a pair of helpful hands.
HEAD LICE PROGRAM:
In order to control head lice among school students (and families) we would like to conduct hair inspections at various times of the year. Any assistance would be appreciated.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORMS BELOW AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE

Thursday 7th
PLAYGROUP—9.00-10.45 Multi-Purpose room
Grade 5/6 NETBOOK Meeting 5.00pm—Room 13

Friday 8th
Parents & Friends Meet 2.15pm in school Library
Grade 5/6 NETBOOK Meeting 9.00am

Monday 11th
CANTEEN OPEN
Menu enclosed in newsletter

Wednesday 13th
BREAKFAST IN THE MULTI 8.15am—8.45am

Thursday 14th
PROPOSED Australian Education Union Stopwork Day—further information to be provided

Friday Feb 22nd
PUPIL FREE DAY (Curriculum Day)

Thursday 21st March
RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY