Dear students, families and friends,

PREP MORNING TEA
It was wonderful to meet and welcome so many new and also already familiar parents to our prep morning tea last Friday. It was a great opportunity for me to connect with new parents and for all parents to make connections and to develop friendships. School is for the whole family to participate and enjoy and I hope that families are able to make this possible.

HOME GROUPS
This year we are encouraging all staff, students and parents to refer to all classes by their room number. If parents are identifying their child’s class on a form or envelope they should refer to the class by stating the room number. Eg room 2 (which is Prep Manley,) This will help Kaye and Val with identification as our whole school system is now operating in this manner.

School classes for this year are:
Room 1- (Prep - Natalie Gleeson)
Room 2- (Prep- Kim Manley)
Room 3- (Prep/1 - Jo Bergin)
Room 4- (1 / 2 - Alice Thorn)
Room 5- ( 1 / 2 - Sally Brown)
Room 6- ( 1 / 2 - Jenny Ball)
Room 7- ( 4 / 5 - Jody Garwood)
Room 8- (3 / 4 - Leah Backas)
Room 9- (3 / 4-Hayden Polglase)
Room 10- (3 / 4 - Jacqui O’Shea)
Room 11- (5 / 6 - Allan sing)
Room 12- (5 / 6 - Scott Pysing)
Room 13- (5 / 6 - Katie Heard)

MEET AND GREET INTERVIEWS
On Thursday 23rd February from 2.00pm till 6.20 pm teachers will be conducting ‘Meet and Greet’ interviews across the school. Each interview time will be 10 minutes in length. The primary purpose of the meetings is for the parents to meet their child’s teacher and for the teachers to meet the parents and to find out any crucial and individual information that may need to be shared. An information sheet about expectations for your child’s year ahead will also be handed out. (Forms will go home tomorrow night.)

LITERACY TRAINING SESSION
The Literacy Parent training session will be held next Thursday 23rd February from 9.00 till 10.00am in the Library. This session will be titled ‘Actively listening to children read’. If you are available it would be great to see you there. The training is not only used for classroom support but is excellent practice for listening to your own children read at home.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
School Council elections are currently in progress. We are seeking 4 interested parents to be nominated for Council. The nomination forms are obtained from the front office and must be completed and handed to the office by 4pm on Thursday 16th February (this Thursday). If you are unsure of what is required please do not hesitate to see me and I can explain the role more clearly. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to become directly involved in the operation of the school. (If you are interested please take a form and ask 2 other parents to nominate and second your nomination).

SCHOOL VALUES
Our school values are: persistence, resilience, excellence, honesty and respect.

PREP ATTENDANCE
A reminder that prep students will only attend 4 days per week until the end of February (Wednesdays off) and then in March there will be 2 Wednesdays off- Wednesday 14th March and Wednesday 28th March.

PUPIL FREE DAY
Don’t forget that Friday 24th February is a pupil free day. If you require Out of Hours School care please contact Leah or Karen for bookings.

I hope that all students have had a smooth and enjoyable transition back into school. Please endeavour to get to school on time every day, to have plenty of sleep and to eat healthily- don’t forget to read every night and to practice your spelling words. This will really strengthen your learning.

Di Craig (Acting Principal)

Dates to Remember...
Thurs 23 Feb - Meet & Greet Interviews; Literacy training
Fri 24 Feb - Pupil Free Day
20-22nd March - Grade 3/4 Camp
Fri 30 Mar - Last day of Term 1
Mon 1 April - First day of Term 2
Tues 24 April - Book Fair
Fri 4 May - School Photos
7,8,9,14,15 & 16 May—Swimming Program

Specimen Hill Primary School: Inglewood Street GOLDEN SQUARE Victoria 3555 Ph: 03 5443 5353 Fax: 03 5441 5494
Email: specimen.hill.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Web Page: http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au
After School Care Ph: 0447788686 Before School Care Ph: 0438062561
STARS OF THE WEEK
Presented to students at assembly on
Monday 13th February 2012

Rm. 1 - Aidan R
Rm. 2 - Lara M
Rm. 3 - Grace M & Kynan H
Rm. 4 - Trinity F
Rm. 5 - Blake C
Rm. 6 - Makenze T
Rm. 7 - Logan B
Rm. 8 - Tayla H & Zach C
Rm. 9 - Isobel M
Rm. 10 - Danté R Blaze H
Rm. 11 - Nic B
Rm. 12 - Jet C
Rm. 13 - Harrison M

Lote - Maddi C & Tyler E
P.E. - Kurtis C

FOOD HAMPERS
Any families willing to donate food items toward our food hamper can leave items at the office. These items will be distributed to families of students from our school who may be experiencing difficulties in these current times. Items will be made into fortnightly hampers to be distributed. (Food vouchers accepted.)

Any queries please see Corey

SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNISATION
Parents are required to provide a immunization history statement to your school with the statement ‘This child has received all vaccines required by 5 years of age’.

School entry immunization status certificates can only be obtained from: The Aust. Childhood Immunisation Register—Ph. No. 1800653809; online at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au; Medicare Aust. Office or your local council immunisation service.

PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE PROGRAM
A reminder that parents need to be checking their child’s hair regularly (every night if possible). Early detection is one of the key factors in treating lice outbreaks and preventing them from spreading.

We are seeking parents interested in assisting with this highly valued program. The program runs fortnightly.

Please fill out the form below and return to school.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
Parents eligible to receive the EMA must fill out the appropriate paperwork and return it to the school office after presenting current evidence (as at 1st February 2012) of eligibility. Parent or guardians must be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 1986 or be a foster parent; and submit their application to the school by 29th February.

Instalment 1
Parent share $82.25
School share $82.25

Instalment 2
Parent share $35.25
School share $35.25

The application form was sent home last week - (Note: It must be presented in person to the school office with your Centrelink Benefit Card).

The school’s share is used to cover your child’s school fees and the balance towards the family levy. If you do not want the family levy deducted, please contact the office.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE (mobile, home or work) NUMBER?
If you have changed your address or phone number - WE NEED TO KNOW! Please see Kaye or Val at the school office or call 54 435 353. Thanks for your support with this matter.

BOOKS & REQUISITES PAYMENT (repeat)
A reminder to parents about the schools Books and Requisites payment for 2012.
This fee pays for the books we purchase on your behalf for each student, at a cost of $100.00.
We request that each family contributes a voluntary $40.00. This amount will support the continued development of our grounds & upgrading school learning programs.

Thus the amount owing to the school is: $140.00 for the first child and $100.00 for each child
We are very happy for families to arrange to pay this off or pay as a lump sum. 

EMA recipients (School Share $117.50) have these fees partly covered.

EXCURSION LEVY (repeat) 
We have an option of pre paying your child’s excursion levy. This system has worked well over the past years. Parents can pay up front for those parent funded items (like visiting performances) that previously needed to be paid for just before the performance. If you pay up front, your child will not miss the performance and you won’t have to be chasing around for change on the day before. That will mean you pay in advance and not worry about it for the rest of the year.

CLASS NEWS

Senior Department News
We are well into Week 3 of the school year. Most students have received their Netbooks and are ready for use. We are still waiting on some payments to be finalised for some students before being able to participate in the Netbook Schools Program effectively. We emphasise the importance of all students having their Netbooks in order to begin the program and full integration into classroom learning. Please make arrangements with your child’s teacher if final payments cannot be made by week 4.

It is wonderful to see students using their diaries as daily organisers and communication books between home and school. Most students have begun the school year in a positive manner towards homework tasks. A reminder that these tasks include reading for 20 minutes, spelling and times-table practice at least 4 times per week. Please discuss and encourage your child to monitor their homework and keep up with expectations.

It is expected that students charge their netbooks at home, ready for maximum use the following school day. Working towards self management will enhance their organisational skills in Secondary School and contribute to successful learning now and in the future.

Congratulations to all students for continuing to maintain a positive start to the school year. The Prep Buddy Program is proving to demonstrate many of the wonderful efforts both students and staff across the school are doing for a smooth transition for our new little Preps. We are setting readiness for maximum use the following school day. Working towards self management will enhance their organisational skills in Secondary School and contribute to successful learning now and in the future.

CLASS NEWS

Middle Department News
Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed their first FULL week of school last week! Seems as though the ball is rolling and students are settling in to their roles and responsibilities as middle years learners.

Grade 5/6 Team - Allan Sing, Scott Pysing, Judi Garwood & Katie Heard

Junior Department News

Grades 1 & 2 News
What a great start to the school year. Students are settling into their rooms well and are beginning to work in the expected way. All teachers are happy with the efforts being made by students and their families.

Please keep that fruit coming in lunch boxes as we often stop for a ‘brain food’ break. Take home readers are purely for practise, therefore they should be easy for your child. Please don’t worry if your child races through their book. In fact we want you to throw a party!!! Home reading should be easy, fun and a celebration of the hard work done at school. Thank you for backing us up with this.

Grade 1/2 Team - Jenny Ball, Sally Brown, Alice Thorn & Jo Bergin.

Prep News
We are looking forward to catching up with all our Parents during next week’s meet and greet on Thursday afternoon/evening. It will be a wonderful chance for us all to talk about your child’s start at school. Thank you for supporting your child’s reading in such a positive way, make sure you return their yellow books to school each day. We still have some children without fresh fruit or vegetable for brain food times, this is a very important part of our daily routine, please make sure they have some each day.

Natalie, Kim & Jo.

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.............
GENERAL NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS
This year the Library will be open before school and at lunch times on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30am. Please help your child participate in regular borrowing by providing a Library bag to protect books eg. a pillow case or green shopping bag named please. Some Library bags are available to buy at school for $2.00 from Mrs. Young.

Already some overdue books from last year have been returned. Please keep looking and returning overlooked books they will be gratefully received.

We are also looking for some volunteer parents to assist with Library tasks. Please see Sandy or Judy.
Ta, Sandy

CANTEEN NEWS reminder
We are once again asking for volunteers to help with Canteen on Monday & Fridays (9am-12noon). Canteen lunches to start this Friday 17th February.

Lunch orders for Friday lunches to be returned Thursday. Please have order written on brown paper bag (20c extra if school supplies) with money enclosed and handed in to the classroom tub at 9am.

Menus have gone home.
Canteen Helpers: Please fill out form below and return to school asap.

After Lunch Sales on Monday & Friday at this stage

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

ASHC Phone No. 0447 788 636. Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations.

Accounts went home last week. A reminder that some accounts are overdue and require paying asap.

Payment Option: Direct Deposit—A/c Name Specimen Hill Primary School, A/c No. 10113221, BSB 063506 with your name and OSHC for details.

A reminder that permanent bookings need to give 24 hours notice when cancelling to avoid incurring a charge.

Thurs 16th Feb. - Fruit & Veg. Platter Picnic / Craft
Fri 17th Feb. - Popcorn / Movie
Mon 20th Feb. - Sandwiches - Playground Fun
Tues 21st Feb. - Mini hotdogs - Movie
Wed 22nd Feb. - Frozen Yoghurt - Group games

Please pack an extra snack if your child is attending After School Care. Some children are still hungry after the ‘snack’ provided by the program. Also, antibacterial handwash is provided by the program - children may bring their own named sanitiser if they wish to do so but it is optional.

BSHC Phone No. 0438 062 561. Please ring Karen or Kate for bookings/cancellations.

PUPIL FREE DAY FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY. OSHC WILL BE RUNNING AN ALL DAY PROGRAM FROM 8AM TO 6PM. PLEASE BOOK YOUR CHILD/REN ASAP WITH THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR LEAH IF CARE IS REQUIRED.

NEWSLETTERS & NOTES are available from our website http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au.

There are a lot of Community notices on page 5 of the Speci which can be accessed on our web site (above). Please let Val (office) know if you would like to have your newsletter emailed each week.

PAULS COLLECT A CAP Fundraiser

Turn caps into coins
Pauls will contribute 10c per cap for every cap collected. So the more caps you collect, the bigger the contribution. Start collecting today! Leave caps at the school office.

Schools Healthy Lunchbox Competition
What is a healthy school lunch? Win great prizes for you and your school.

Age Groups: Pre-school-Prep; Grades 1-3; Grades 4-6.
Here’s what you need to do: Make an A3 poster of your healthy school lunch—draw, paint, collage, etc. or make a model of your healthy school lunch out of clay, plaster, plasticine, playdough, paper.

Prizes: $40 Toy World Voucher for each winner. $200 garden nursery voucher for the winning school/s.

Entries close 9th March 2012. All entries to be displayed at the Long Gully Community Garden Family Fun Day on Sunday 18th March 2012.
COMMUNITY NEWS

HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY
Hockey is an Olympic sport and participation is on the rise! Your child might even have already participated in a school hockey clinic! Hockey Central Vic will be running Hookin2Hockey clinics & games in Bendigo on Saturday mornings (9.30am - 10.15am) over 6 weeks, beginning of Term 2 (from Sat 21st April to 2nd June 2012) for primary school children. Well run, good coaches & great family fun! For $65 participants get their own hockey pack - stick, shin pads, ball, replica Kookaburras t-shirt & goal. Register online at www.hcv.sportingpulse.net (see Development) or contact Kerri Wellman, H2H Coordinator at hcv.hin2h@gmail.com on 5449 3527.

GIRLS BRIGADE BENDIGO
Is part of an international movement which works with girls in culturally relevant and fun ways, supports families and serves in the community through local churches. GB has been around since 1893, 1924 in Australia for 35 years in Bendigo. When do we meet: Mon nights (school terms) Years prep—4 5:30 -7pm. Years 5-12 7-6:45pm at Bendigo Baptist Church Melvors H’way, Junortoun. Cost $95 per year. For more information—Jenny McWilliam 5439 7557 or email bendigogb@gmail.com. Visit www.gbvic.org

EAGLEHAWK SOCCER CLUB INC.
Junior Registration Day Sunday 19th Feb. @ 1-6pm at the clubrooms, Truscott Reserve, Murdoch St., California Gully. Free sausage sizzle. Age groups Under 6 yrs. & Under 16 yrs. Full fees payment is required upon registration. For more details visit www.eaglehawksoccerclub.com.au or email eaglehawksoccerclub@bigpond.com

COUNTRY CAMPS—AFL & NETBALL CAMPS
Visit www.big5sports.com.au for more information or check the schools notice board out.

LONG GULLY COMMUNITY GARDEN FAMILY FUN DAY.
When: Sunday 18th March 2012 @ 11am-3pm

COME AND TRY!
Senjuns Hockey Club takes playing hockey and having fun very seriously. Come and give it a go.
Date: Sunday 26th Feb. @ 11am-3pm at CVH Complex, Ashley St., Ironbark. Season begins 25/3/12
Who: Middle School age and up (you’re never too old). Phone Mike 0439353062 or Peter 0427889712

BENDIGO EAST BASEBALL CLUB
Will run introductory T-ball/baseball sessions on the Speci school oval on Tuesday 21 and 28 February 2012 from 3.15-4.15pm and also at the Ken Wust Oval, Hamlet St., Quarry Hill on Wednesday 22 and 29 Feb. 2012 from 4-5pm. Boys and girls aged 5-12 are welcome to attend (we request a parent or guardian remain present during the session). A registration night for all previous and new junior and senior players for the 2012 winter competition will also be held on the Ken Wust Oval on Wed. 29 Feb. 2012 from 5pm. For more details visit www.bendigoeast.baseball.com.au

BENDIGO COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET
The Bendigo Community Farmers’ Market provides fresh, regional and seasonal produce to Bendigo in a friendly relaxed environment. It is held monthly from 9am to 1pm on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Rosalind Park end of Williamson St.
Visit the web page: www.bcfm.org.au

KANGAROO FLAT COMMUNITY CENTRE
At 21 Woolcock Avenue is now a venue for community after school tutoring for students Prep to Year 10. If your child needs to improve in reading, spelling or maths call the office on 5447 9687 during business hours or Michael on 0413 116 096. Financial help may be available to those who qualify.

BENDIGO COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ‘SOUP KITCHEN’
Meals will vary at the ‘Soup Kitchen’ with chicken and salad offered in the warmer months. Meet in the arcade outside Café De Mill in Hargreaves Street (opposite BRIT) each Thursday at 4pm for a free meal. Everyone is welcome to come down and join us in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Bring the whole family for a healthy meal.

TENNIS HOT SHOTS - Welcome to MLC Tennis Hot Shots

- Tuesday 4.40pm – 5.20pm starts 07/02/2012
- Wednesday 4.00pm - 4.40pm starts 08/02/2012
- Wednesday 4.40pm - 5.20pm starts 08/02/2012
- Thursday 4.00pm – 4.40pm starts 09/02/2012
- Thursday 4.40pm – 5.20pm starts 09/02/2012
- Saturday 9.00am - 9.40am starts 11/02/2012
- Saturday 9.40am – 10.20am starts 11/02/2012
- Sunday 10.20am – 11.00am starts 11/02/2012