MEET AND GREET

On this Thursday 23rd Feb we are having our Meet and Greet meetings with classroom teachers. It is important that all parents arrive on time and that teachers stick to the 10 minutes per family. If you require a follow up meeting this can be arranged with your child’s teacher. The primary purpose of the meeting 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.

LITERACY TRAINING SESSION

The Literacy Parent training session will be held this 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 useful and excellent practice for listening to your own children read at home.

SCHOOL VALUES

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

ARRIVAL/PICKUP

I have noticed that some students are arriving to school after 9.00am and are remaining behind well after 3.30pm. Arriving late in the morning interrupts learning time and often creates anxiety in the child to start the day. After school staff remain on duty in the grounds until 3.30pm and then any students still in the yard will be sent to the foyer area waiting for parents to collect them. We can not leave students unsupervised in or outside the school yard after 3.30pm. If you know you are going to be late could you please contact the school to let us know. A booking into the OHSC program may be required. The school day is 9.00 till 3.15.

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. The following Wednesdays will be the remaining nominated Wednesdays off for Term 1. Wednesday 29th Feb, Wed 14th March and Wednesday 28th March.

PARKING

Parking around the school is an ongoing issue. Unfortunately some parents are dropping students off in the turning circle

To students, families and friends,

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We have completed our School Council election process and I am very pleased to say that we have had four parent members who were nominated and will fill the four council vacancies. The election process does not require a ballot vote as the number of nominations matches the positions available. I am very happy to announce our 4 new school councillors who will serve a two year term and to welcome them to the Specimen Hill Primary School Council. Congratulations to:

Trevor Humphreys
Marie Cox
Hayley Davis
Naomi Evans

Trevor Humphreys, Hayley Davis and Marie Cox have already served a period on council and have been renominated. Naomi Evans is new to council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wayne Sherriff who has completed his term on school council and cannot be renominated due to Kiam his son now attending Crusoe College. Wayne has been our school council president for the past 3 years and has been a dynamic, passionate and extremely hard working and supportive school council president. In all forums Wayne has been the school’s most vocal supporter and his love and passion for the school is indicated by his hard work, involvement on all sub committees, attention to our school grounds and especially the oval - he worked tirelessly over the school holidays to re sow, and water the oval and to help to rectify our watering system, his commitment to barbeques, fundraising, attendance at all ‘special’ occasions, as a host family member to 2 Chinese students in 2011 and the list goes on. Wayne will be terribly missed but I hope that he will still be involved in our school council in some capacity.

Thank you Wayne from the staff, students and parent community.

PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that this coming Friday is a ‘Pupil Free’ day at school so students do not attend. This is a council approved curriculum day where staff will attend to complete training in CPR, asthma and anaphylaxis as well as wellbeing and technology PD. The OHSC program is operating on this day from 8.00 till 6.00. Bookings must be made on 0447 788 636

PARKING
in Tambour Heights or parking in the disabled parking bay. This is not allowed. Police are continuing with their spot checks of schools and we do not want any parents breaking the road rules or being booked.

WASPS
We currently have some wasps frequenting the playground and we have taken action and put steps in place to avoid an incident. Children are eating inside and the pest controllers are operating.

Have a great week ahead,
Di Craig (Acting Principal)

Dates to Remember…
Thurs 23 Feb - Meet & Greet Interviews; Literacy training
Fri 24 Feb - Pupil Free Day
Fri 2 Mar - School Council Investiture
Fri 2 Mar - Parents & Friends meeting 9am staff room
20-22nd Mar - Grade 3/4 Camp
Fri 30 Mar - Last day of Term 1
Mon 16 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

STARS OF THE WEEK
Presented to students at assembly on Monday 21st February 2012

Rm. 1 - Haylee J
Rm. 2 - Samantha C
Rm. 3 - Tahlia P
Rm. 4 - Ebony M
Rm. 5 - Siena F
Rm. 6 - Macey R
Rm. 7 - Cassidy S
Rm. 8 - Chantel S
Rm. 9 - Zara W
Rm. 10 - Tara S
Rm. 11 - Paris S
Rm. 12 - Makeelie D
Rm. 13 - Abby W

LETTE - Grace W
OSHC - Katie B

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

BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Speci Healthy Breakfast program every Wednesday morning. All children are welcome to attend.
Time: 8.15 to 8.45 - children must be in the MPR no later than 8.30. Cereal, toast, juice, milo & fruit to be served.

SCHOOL COUNCIL INVESTITURE
School Council / Leadership presentation ceremony will be held on Friday 2nd March at 2:30pm in the Multi.
All parents/guardians are invited to attend. There will be an afternoon tea to follow.

Room 3 - Milly L, Grace M & Tahlia P
Room 4 - Bella L & Bailey C
Room 5 - Blake C & Charlotte K
Room 6 - Lily T & Destiney S
Room 7 - Natalie D & Brooklyn R
Room 8 - Grace W & Jacob C
Room 9 - Keely P & Zara W
Room 10 - Jasmin A & Tyran A
Room 11 - Jarvier W, Nic B & Victoria L
Room 12 - Darcy W, Mitch B & Kaily G
Room 13 - Kayla R, Ethan F & Kayley S

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
EMA forms need to be filled out and returned to the school officer no later than 29th February. More forms are available from the office.

CLASS NEWS
Senior Department News
It is a shorter week for all students, with a day off on Friday. However it still remains extra busy with lots on throughout the week. As a Senior School, we are continuing to work hard at setting high standards with our commitment to learning and establishing positive routines at school and at home. Reading routines including spelling practice is gaining momentum in classrooms, which is great to see. Please monitor your child’s reading and continue to encourage independence in managing their reading diaries and their own organisation with notes and responsibilities.

Staff are looking forward to “Meeting and Greeting” with parents on Thursday afternoon. This will be a great opportunity to share with your child’s teacher anything you think may be helpful to your child’s learning. These meetings have a time limit of 10 minutes due to the amount of sessions to get through. Please respect these times, if you need any follow on time, an opportunity to meet again or a phone meeting can be organised for a later date. If you are unable to attend, we encourage a courtesy phone call to notify us on the day.

Thank you to those parents who have made further arrangements for Netbook payment in the past week. We have almost got all students up and running with the use of Netbooks in the classroom. We’re looking forward to integrating these across our curriculum and greatly improving our ICT skills.

-The 4/5/6 Senior Team: Miss Heard, Mr Sing, Mr Pysing, Mrs Garwood.
Middle Department News
Students enjoyed their first week of Middle Years Rotations last week. Every Thursday, classes will participate in a variety of integrated activities based on a particular theme. The following classes will run at 12:45 on a Thursday for term 1.
Science: Mr Polglase  Music: Miss Backas
ICT/Library: Mrs O’Shea

“Meet and Greet’ sessions start tomorrow. Teachers are looking forward to catching up with old faces and meeting new ones! It’s a great opportunity for teachers to have some one on one time with parents and learn more about our students. If you missed out on booking a spot, please call the office tonight and we will schedule you in!

Camp plans are coming along smoothly. Packs will be sent home with students on Monday. This will include behaviour contracts, information sheet with timetable, medical forms and equipment list. Parents need to be aware that we are asking for payments to be finalised by the 12th March. Please find the time to budget for this expense, or contact the school to organise a payment plan.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Leah Backas, Jacqui OShea and Hayden Polglase.

Junior Department News
Grades 1 & 2 News
Lots of action in the 1/2 area at the moment. Teachers are busily trying to test students and will be using the results to strengthen students’ knowledge and direct their teaching. Don’t forget your child will need to wear runners on their PE day. (Home Group 3 P/Bergin – Tuesday, Home Group 4 1/2T – Monday, Home Group 5 1/2 Brown – Tuesday and Home Group 6 1/2 Ball – Wednesday).
Our unit of work for this term is Me, Myself and I. This allows us to cover a wide variety of issues, including friendship, our senses and the fact that we are all unique. Please don’t forget Nude Food Thursdays. We ask that all lunch box items be in take home containers and all students know that this is a good way to help our school environment and the wider world as well. The best part is, in the long run it will save you money. We watch and encourage students to take home zip lock bags, as many still think that they get thrown in the bin.
We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Meet and Greet Interviews on Thursday. These are a quick informal chat about your child.

Thank you to all people who are reading with their children and an extra thanks to those who are reading to your children. Books area wonderful thing to share.

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

Prep News
In the Prep room this week we are talking about the words ‘i’ and ‘my’. We are looking for these in our readers and in using them in our writing. It would be wonderful if you could spend some time discussing these words at home also.

Our classroom has become more structured this week with our mornings starting with silent reading. The preps are doing well with this and are achieving 10 minutes of quiet reading on their own, we are very proud of their efforts.

With warmer weather expected next week please ensure your child has some water with them each day.

We have created a fruit basket in our classroom showing all the fresh fruit we can bring for brain food. Please ask your child to help you put a piece of brain food into their bag each day to help with their learning.

Natalie, Kim & Jo.

GENERAL NEWS
NUDE FOOD
We will again be having Nude Food Thursday as a weekly event, commencing on Thursday 1st of March. It will then run each Thursday for the entire year.

Nude Food Day is a fantastic opportunity to teach children about how their actions can impact the environment and their health. Focussing on the positive message of ‘nude food = a healthy body + a healthy planet’, we want students to be empowered to choose healthy, rubbish free food for their lunches and snacks.

So, on Nude Food Thursdays we encourage not only healthy fresh foods such as; fruit and vegetables but we also encourage “no wrappers” on that day to help our environment. Plastic containers or lunch boxes can be used to store the food for the day (including sandwiches), as well as all drinks from home being brought to school in drink bottles and not “Prima” type throw away boxes. The aim is for no wrappers at all, but reusable storage bags that return home with the student are acceptable. Each class’s throw away rubbish will be counted on Thursdays, with the winning class acknowledged at the weekly assembly and presented with a certificate. Remember, ‘nude food = a healthy body + a healthy planet’.

Scott Pysing (Coordinator)

PARENTS & FRIENDS CLUB
Parents & Friends Club will hold their first meeting for the year on Friday 2nd March at 9am in the Staff room. New parents most welcome. Our AGM will be held at the next meeting (date to be decided).

PLAYGROUP
Thursdays 9am to 10:45am In the Multi-
Please bring along a healthy snack and hat for your child.
Cost is $1 per child. Tea and Coffee is available for parents/carers
For further inquiries please ring the school office on 5443 5353.
Danielle Boulton & Lee Cassells

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.............
**Canteen News**

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. Volunteers are still sought. If you can help out on Mondays or Fridays please let Corey Warne know.

**Menus** have gone home.

**After Lunch Sales to start - volunteers needed**

Please fill out the form below. Pre-schoolers can come along.

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**AFTER LUNCH SALE HELPERS**

Name: ..........................................................

Phone No.: ..................................................

[ ] Tuesday  [ ] Thursday

[ ] weekly  [ ] fortnightly  [ ] monthly

From 1:30—2:15pm

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**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 clinic & 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.

**Come and Try & Registration Day** Sat. 3rd March @ 9.30am.

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**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 McVor H’way, Junortoun.

Cost $95 per year.

For more information—Jenny McWilliam 5439 7557 or email bendigob@gmail.com. Visit www.gbvic.org
LONG GULLY COMMUNITY GARDEN FAMILY FUN DAY.
When: Sunday 18th March 2012 @ 11am-3pm
Enquiries Jenny Pendlebury 5434 6479

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.