MEET & GREET
Thank you to the many parents who attended the Meet and Greet interviews last Thursday evening. The staff were very pleased with the opportunity to meet their students’ parents and to be able to share information about the year ahead.

PUPIL FREE DAY
During last Friday’s pupil free day the staff were busy at school attending their day of ‘learning’. The morning’s program was dedicated to compliance-anaphylaxis, CPR and asthma updates and during the afternoon we participated in Wellbeing and Ultranet. It was a very stimulating day enabling staff to complete necessary training.

PARENT TRAINING
Thank you to the parents who participated in the parent training session for “actively listening to children read” which was conducted last Thursday morning. Thank you also to Mrs Jackson for conducting this session. As parents and educators, the more we know and the more confidence we have in assisting our children’s educational journey the better.

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

PREP DAYS
In March Preps will have 2 Wednesdays off for the remainder of Term 1. These will be Wed 14th March and Wednesday 28th March.

JSC INVESTITURE
This Friday is the Junior School Council Leadership Investiture at 2.30 pm. Congratulations to all Junior School Councillors and especially to our key Office bearers: President: Kayley Stewart, Vice President: Ethan Fernandes, Secretary: Darcy White and Treasurer: Kayla Rayner. I’m sure that these students along with their fellow Junior School Council members will offer excellent student leadership and ‘voice’ across the school for 2012.

SCHOOL COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEES
Next week our School Council Sub committees will operate. These will continue to operate from the 2011 council members as the new members will not operate until following the first AGM on Tuesday 13th March.

CONFUCIUS SCHOOL
Tomorrow will be our first lesson at the Confucius School for 2012. We have 25 students who will be attending on a fortnightly basis. It was pleasing to see the enthusiasm from students towards this program, but unfortunately all could not attend so we do have a ‘waiting list’ for future placements.

CHINESE STUDENTS
In Term 4 this year the school will once again be hosting Chinese students from Suzhou in China. This year we will have 5 students for an 8 week period. Over the future weeks we will be seeking interest for accommodating these students. There has been ongoing communication with Suzhou enhanced by the parent feedback from 2011. I think that this has provided some improved decisions for the 2012 program. I will be visiting Suzhou with a Regional delegation during the second last week of Term 1 to visit our partner school to discuss the program that we offer at Specimen Hill.

Have a great week ahead,
Di Craig (Acting Principal)
Dates to Remember...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
<td>School Council Investiture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends meeting 9am staff room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>SC Co-option Meeting @ 6.30pm; School Council Meeting 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-22nd</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>16 Apr</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,8,9,14,15 &amp; 16 May</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STARS OF THE WEEK**

Presented to students at assembly on Monday 21st February 2012

Rm. 1 - Regan W
Rm. 2 - Savanna S
Rm. 3 - Isabelle M
Rm. 4 - Kalo D
Rm. 5 - Tenelle D
Rm. 7 - Natalie Y
Rm. 8 - Lincon P
Rm. 9 - Sean B
Rm. 10 - Aaron F
Rm. 11 - Caleb B
Rm. 12 - Mitchell B
Rm. 13 - Brock R

LOTE - Lara M
P.E. - Grade 5/6H
Art - Mitchell S
OSHC - Maddi S

**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.

**EASTER EGG RAFFLE**

Our annual Easter Egg raffle will be drawn 28th March. We are requesting donations of Easter eggs / chocolate for our raffle. These can be left at the school office.

Raffle tickets will be going home soon.

**CLASS NEWS**

**Senior Department News**

Our Parent and Teacher Meet and Greet meetings last Thursday went very well. Many staff were able to keep meeting times to approximately 10 minutes, although we know how difficult this can be. Any further discussions required about your child or those who could not attend and still wish to speak to a teacher, please call the school to arrange another appointment. Thank you to those parents who notified the school if they could not attend.

Students are displaying improvements in their commitment to school and homework requirements, establishing positive learning routines and managing themselves with greater independence. We will be working on this throughout the year and hope to maintain a positive approach to all tasks at school and at home. Now that we have almost completed week 5 of Term 1, students should be well aware of their responsibilities at school and at home, including the completion of homework tasks. YES, ALL STUDENTS HAVE HOMEWORK responsibilities that will be monitored regularly. These include Reading, Spelling and Maths. Please check up on your child’s completion of these at home. They should be working towards doing these independently without being asked to by parents/guardians and organising themselves positively to be ready for school and ready to learn.

Our Unit this term focuses on Leadership. All students in the Senior School are leaders within the school in some way and ALL students have the potential to lead others with great SUCCESS. We will be unpacking this topic through a variety of ways, and establishing ourselves and our positive leadership qualities and improvements throughout the year.

-The 4/5/6 Senior Team: Miss Heard, Mr Sing, Mr Pysing, Mrs Garwood.

**Middle Department News**

Wow, how time flies! We are already half way through term 1. Students need to be commended for their work ethic and behaviour over the past 5 weeks. All teachers have commented on how lovely it has been to teach enthusiastic children who are ready to learn and have a go! Keep up the fantastic work kids.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers that attended our “Meet and Greet” session on Thursday. Although they were quick sessions, it was a great way to ‘catch up’ with families and learn about each child.

**Camp:** We are all starting to get excited! Information packs were sent home on Monday, please note that payment finalisation was required on the 12th of March. This is a public holiday, so please ensure that it is all organised by Tuesday 13th. The information pack had a timetable on a blue sheet and equipment list on a green sheet. Please find the time to sit down with your child and discuss each day so they are aware of each activity and what is required of them.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We have an open door policy, so feel free to catch up with us if there are any concerns or issues.

Leah Backas, Jacqui OShea and Hayden Polglase
Junior Department News
Grades 1 & 2 News
Great to see so many parents at the Meet and Greet session. Please catch up with your child’s teacher if you missed the session.
Please remember when your child is doing their spelling homework it is only 3 words. Each night they need to choose one activity to help them remember these words and that is all we want.
We still require all children to wear hats and it always helps if they are named. Please keep the fruit and water rolling in.

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

Prep News
We enjoyed catching up with parents last Thursday at our ‘Meet & Greet’. Thank you to all parents who attended. We found all discussions very insightful and positive. We are continuing to focus on the word ‘my’ this week. Please discuss this with your child and find the word when reading. We are also looking at the letter ‘L l’ with children. Please discuss what it looks like and what sound it makes. If your child orders a lunch order can you please ensure that they still have brain food and a snack for afternoon recess.

We are amazed with the progress that the children have made so far this year. The Preps are settling into their school routine beautifully and we are very proud! Don’t forget Preps will attend their first Wednesday next week on the 7th, with the following Wednesday 14th off again.

Natalie, Kim & Jo.

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

Reminder

GENERAL NEWS

NUDE FOOD - reminder
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)

NETBALL 2012
Students have been asked to enter their names for the Specimen Hill PS Netball competition, notes have gone home or are available at the office. We will also need coaches for our teams. Please let me know if you are able to help.
Names of players need to be finalised by Friday March 2nd as team entries must be in by Friday March 23rd.
The competition begins on Saturday April 21st and games played at the Schweppes Centre every Saturday.
There are two age groups (ages at 31/12/12):
Primary 13/Under Girls only
Primary Modified 13/Under Mixed
Primary 11/Under
Cost:
Primary (13 Under) $40.20
Under 11 & Grade 3 $30.20
Ben Dyett (PE Co-ordinator)

BOOKCLUB
Book Club orders must be returned by Monday 12th March @ 9am please.
Sandy Young

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 (Co-ordinators)

UNIFORM SHOP
School bags and S/S polo shirts are in stock.
CANTEEN NEWS reminder
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.

AFTER LUNCH SALE HELPERS
Name: ………………………………………………………...
Phone No.: ………………………………………………….
[    ] Tuesday            [    ] Thursday
[    ] weekly  [    ] fortnightly [    ] monthly
From 1:30—2:15pm

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.

Another $644 has been received by our school.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
ASHC Phone No. 0447 788 636. Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations.

Accounts have gone home today. 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 1st Mar. - Sandwiches & Cordial / Craft
Fri 2nd Mar. - Chips / Movie
Mon 5th Mar. - Fruit & Ice-cream / Playground Fun
Tues 6th Mar. - Flavoured Milk & Biscuits / Parachute fun
Wed 7th Mar. - Cooking—Salad Wraps / Music

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIG HILL SCHOOL FAIR
Friday the 16th of March - 5pm till 8pm
All most welcome                  Free entry
Students Art Display Dance Display
Treasure Hunt Lucky Dips Wares
Second hand book stall Plants for Sale
Silent Wine Auction Major Raffle BBQ
Devonshire Tea Baked Potatoes Cake and chocolate stall And much more!

KANGAROO FLAT JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
The Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club still have positions available in our Under 9s and Under 10’s teams. If you played for the club last year but have not registered as yet please contact Michelle Johns on 0427545815 or Linda Stagg on 0400230254. New players are also most welcome.

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.

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).

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

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

Our children’s future in the very best of hands..............
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 McIvor H’way, Junortoun.
Cost $95 per year.
For more information—Jenny McWilliam 5439 7557 or email bendigogb@gmail.com. Visit www.gbvic.org

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
Enquiries Jenny Pendlebury 5434 6479

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.