To students, families and friends,

CONFUCIUS SCHOOL
The Confucius School Chinese language program was enthusiastically received last Thursday by the 25 students who attended. The students are currently focussing on basic greetings, Chinese songs and culture.

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM
The School council Annual General Meeting where new office bearers are elected will occur next Tuesday 13th March at 7.00pm. (due to Monday being a holiday,) I welcome all new councillors and previous councillors to the first meeting for 2012.

PREP PICK UP
The prep teachers have sent home a permission slip where parents are asked to nominate whether they wish to collect their child from the classroom or whether their child can be dismissed and meet their parents at a designated area. (All forms must be returned). There has been some concern over clarity with current practice so we hope that this alleviates those concerns. As from the start of Term 2 all students will be dismissed from the classroom.

PREP READING
It is exciting to see the progress that the prep students have made already this year. They are enthusiastically writing and reading on a daily basis. When reading if a child appears to be memorising the words, don’t worry as this is part of the pre-reading or early reading stages. They are not expected to know every word at this stage. This is normal behaviour for early readers. Always encourage your child’s efforts and try to make reading time an enjoyable time at home.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL INVESTITURE
Thank you to all who attended the Junior School Council Investiture last Friday. It was a great afternoon and it was wonderful to see so many proud parents, grandparents and friends who attended. Thank you to Mr Warne for his organisation of the event and for his ongoing support with the students.

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

Honesty: this is about being truthful and sincere at all times. It is about always owning up to any of your actions and your behaviour. As a family and a school community we always value honesty and there is never a reason where it is okay to be dishonest. Always be consistent and have high expectations in your own and others’ behaviour.

Have a great week ahead. Remember that Monday 12th is a public holiday.

Di Craig
(Acting Principal)

Dates to Remember…
Mon 12 Mar - Labour Day Holiday
Tues 13 Mar - SC Co-option Meeting @ 6.30pm; School Council Meeting 7pm
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

Reminder: Parents please be aware there is to be NO parking/stopping at the top (turning circle) of Hasker Street and Tambour Heights. The traffic controller will be monitoring this and you risk a receiving a fine.
STARS OF THE WEEK
Presented to students at assembly on Monday 21st February 2012

Rm. 1 - Lachie N
Rm. 2 - Riley N
Rm. 3 - Cohan M
Rm. 4 - Kalo D & Kaitlyn W
Rm. 5 - Corey B & Tenelle D
Rm. 6 - Lily T
Rm. 7 - Kiet C
Rm. 8 - Jacob C
Rm. 9 - Tyler E
Rm. 10 - Mitchell R
Rm. 11 - Jeremy W
Rm. 12 - Douglas D
Rm. 13 - Anthony G

LOTE - Stephanie M
Nude Food - Room 5 (Mrs. Brown)
Art - Chantel S & Grace M
OSHC - Bailey C

PERSONAL ITEMS TO SCHOOL
Children are discouraged from bringing along personal goods such as toys, jewellery, etc to school. If they are required for ‘share in the chair’ they should remain with the teacher during break time to avoid any breakages.

WELLBEING NEWS
If any parent has a child or family concern please contact me to see if there is assistance available. The school is fortunate to have the added support of Bernadette Wright to assist in this area. Bernadette is available Monday, Thursday and Friday.

PICKING UP STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL
As you are aware, school concludes at 3.15pm each day. In the interest of your child’s safety our rule is that students not picked up by 3.30pm must come to the office and be picked up there. This is because yard duty teachers come in at 3.30pm. Thanks

ABSENCES
If a child arrives late to school they must be signed in at the front office before going to the classroom. When a child is absent from school they are required to hand in an absence notice giving the reason for the absence and signed by the parent on the child’s return to school. Teachers are required to maintain accurate records on school lateness and absences so they require the appropriate absence forms following a child’s return. I will be following up with a phone call on any continuous or frequent absences and lateness to school to closely monitor the situation.

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.

CLASS NEWS

Senior Department News
It’s week 6 and students have began rotational activities across the senior school as part of our curriculum focus program. Students in their class groups will have the opportunity to focus on Science and Technology concepts with Miss Heard, Careers with Mr Pysing, Music with Mr Sing and History/Geography with Mrs Garwood. These groups will remain for three weeks at a time and rotate throughout. The students are currently enjoying being a part of this each Friday.
A reminder that students are not to wear expensive jewellery items or jewellery that is not appropriate for school. These include bangles, drop/hoop earrings and large costume rings.
As it is getting quite chilly in the mornings, students are starting to wear their school jackets and jumpers. Ensure these are school uniform items only (clearly named) and not free choice clothing for layering. Students require a note if this cannot be helped at certain times, otherwise lost property items will replace the non-uniform.
Thank you to all those parents who are ensuring their child is adopting positive homework routines according to the requirements set at the beginning of the term. It is great to hear that students are monitoring themselves with this at home and improving on their self-management skills for learning.

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

Middle Department News
Students are well under way with NAPLAN preparation. Over the next two weeks, all classes will be conducting practise NAPLAN test. We will be focusing on reading, numeracy and language conventions. These are simply to gain further knowledge of student progress. They are not for assessment of academic ability.

Over the last few weeks, students have begun writing entries in their Writers Notebook. We are asking students to collect a variety of ‘special memorabilia’ to bring into
Our children’s future in the very best of hands

school and write about. These are small items such as photos, tickets from events, brochures, drawings, letters, etc.

Camp is now only 12 days away! We have asked families to start ticking off the green equipment list. This is so we have an indicator of any students who may need to borrow items for the 3 days.

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
Due to the change in weather jumpers/jackets are being worn and taken off as the day warms up. Please ensure your children have their jumpers/jackets named as we have many strays laying around.

Children need to read every night to Mum, Dad, Grandma or the Dog. Young children need this constant practice and will benefit from a quick chat after the book. You could ask them about the story, the characters or the setting.

At the moment we are asking everyone to bring a baby photo if possible. We are using this to do a piece of descriptive writing.

Keep that fruit and water rolling in.

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

Prep News
The Preps are very excited to be attending their first full week of school this week! Don’t forget next Wednesday 14th the Preps will stay home.

Wednesdays will be our Library day. Children must return any books borrowed in order to re-borrow. If your child would like to return and borrow a book during a week where we have Wednesdays off, they can visit the library before school Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings after 8.45am.

Our word of the week this week is ‘THE’ and the letter of the week is ‘Rr’, please discuss these with your child. Please ensure that your child has enough food for all break times. Some children are left without any food at afternoon recess and are very hungry.

Natalie, Kim & Jo.

GENERAL NEWS

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 went home yesterday.

Please write your child’s name and Home Group on the cover of the Raffle Tickets.

ROOM 7 FUNDRAISER
Guess the Lolly Jar Competition
For the last two weeks of term there will be a guess the amount of lollies in a jar competition held by Mrs. Garwood’s grade. 50¢ a guess or $1 for 3.

The prize will be the lollies plus the beautiful jar.

Lollies are guaranteed to be peanut free.

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.

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)

LIBRARY

Library is open before school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at lunchtime. Please encourage children to visit, borrow and return books regularly.

Thanks
Sandy

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property is located just inside the Art Room door. We already have a number of jumpers and jackets that have been lost. Please name all articles of clothing so they can be returned to the owner. A number of children are missing clothing that may have been inadvertently worn home by another child. Please check names on clothing at home and return if you have another child’s jumper.

BOOKCLUB

Book Club orders must be returned by Tuesday 13th 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.

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Please write your child’s name and Home Group on the cover of the Raffle Tickets.
CANTEEN NEWS reminder
Lunch orders for Friday lunches to be returned Thursday so volunteers can be more organised for Friday. If you forget, lunch orders can still be brought along Friday morning.
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.

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

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 8th Mar. - Fairy Bread / Movie
Fri 9th Mar. - Fruit & Veg. picnic / Playground
Mon 12th Mar. - LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
Tues 13th Mar. - Mini Hotdogs / Movie
Wed 14th Mar. - Saladas / Craft

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

OSHCC is in the process of doing a Quality Improvement Plan including an Evaluation Plan. Over the next few weeks a parent survey will go home and we encourage input. Leah will also have a suggestion box for parents and children to put in ideas/feedback.

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.

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

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.

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.

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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. Dates for 2012: 14th Jan., 11th Feb., 10th Mar., 14th Apr., 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 11th Aug., 8th Sept., 13th Oct., 10th Nov., 8th Dec.
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.