To students, families and friends,

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING—AGM
Last night was the School Council Annual General Meeting with new office bearers elected for 2012. Congratulations to the following members:
  - School council President: Dean Stewart
  - Vice President: Hayley Davis
  - Secretary: Corey Warne and Marie Cox
  - Treasurer: Trevor Humphreys

Welcome to our newly elected members for 2012: Marie Cox, Hayley Davis, Trevor Humphreys and Naomi Evans.
Coopted member: Wayne Sherriff
Staff members: Helen Turpie and Jo Bergin.
Ongoing members: Dean Stewart, Wendy White, Liz March, Di Craig, Corey Warne, Wendy Jackson. I am very proud to acknowledge the cohesive, dedicated and hard working intent of this group who have the interests of the Specimen Hill school community as their core business.

A special thank you to Wayne Sherriff who is our outgoing President. Wayne has given 3 years service as President on the School Council and he has been outstanding in this role. He works tirelessly behind the scenes as well as always present at school functions. Wayne often speaks of his ‘passion’ for the school and he has demonstrated this through his actions. Wayne will still be involved with Council as our new coopted member.

3/4 QUEENSCLIFF CAMP
Next week the 3/4 students will be going on camp to Queenscliff for 3 days. I know that they will have a fabulous time. This is a great opportunity for children to exercise their independence as well as their cooperative and collaborative skills. Thank you to the staff who will be accompanying the students: Wendy Jackson, Leah Backas, Hayden Polglase, Jacqui Oshea, Ben Dyett, Michael Lawlor and Lee Rees. Have a wonderful time!

AFTERNOON TEA
On Thursday 29th March at 2.15 there will be an Afternoon Tea in the staffroom for all prep parents and new families to the school. This is an opportunity for parents to make connections and to form friendships with other families from the school. Friends, grandparents, carers and already established families in the school are also welcome to come along. If you are able to bring along a plate of food to share that would be appreciated and tea and coffee will be provided.

VISIT TO CHINA
On Friday I am heading off to China to visit our partner schools in Suzhou. I hope to catch up with some of our visiting students from last year and to sit down with the Principal and staff from Suzhou schools to speak about the cultural experience that we offer at Specimen Hill. We will have 5 Chinese students visiting us for 8 weeks in term 4. Any families who are considering being host families for these students in October/November I will have more information on my return.

SCHOOL VALUES
Values: excellence, persistence, resilience, honesty and respect.
Excellence is about setting high standards for yourself and wanting to achieve these standards to the best of your ability. Everyone has the ability to excel, it’s about the way you do it or the journey that you take to reach your goal that is so important. Such an achievement requires persistence to achieve excellence.

Have a wonderful week ahead.
Di Craig (Acting Principal)

Dates to Remember...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>20-22nd Mar</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23 Mar</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends AGM/General meet</td>
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<td>Wed 28 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Raffle drawn</td>
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<td>Thurs 29 Mar</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea @ 2:15 to 3:15</td>
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<td>Fri 30 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1—2:15 finish</td>
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<td>Mon 16 April</td>
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<td>Tues 26 April</td>
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<td>Fri 4 May</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>7,8,9,14,15 &amp; 16 May</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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PARENTS AND FRIENDS
Come along to the Annual General meeting of Parents & Friends at 1:30pm on Friday 23rd March. The general meeting will follow the AGM at 2:15pm.
JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS
JSC will be selling ice-creams at our BBQ lunch on Friday March 30th (last day of Term 1). JSC will also be having a Casual Clothes Day March 30th with Fluoro/bright colours as the theme. Gold coin donation collected and donated to a chosen charity. See back page for photos of JSC Investiture

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
Thank you to all those students and parents who are supporting the use of absence notes and out of uniform notes when it is necessary. There has been a noted improvement with this, including seeing more students coming to school wearing uniformed jumpers, jackets and appropriate jewellery. Our Value of focus across the past few weeks has been “Respect”. This is one of our 5 school values and is an important quality to have across all levels of our school community. We are encouraging students and ourselves to show respect, whilst working on improving our behaviours and actions. It is important that we “treat others the way we would like to be treated” and encourage others to adopt this. Please discuss the elements of respect with your child at home. We are nearing Week 8. There has been lots of positive learning happening across the Senior School. We are all working hard to maintain high expectations in teaching and learning. Keep up the great work as we draw closer to our term break. Not long to go now.

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

Middle Department News
Students have been undergoing practise NAPLAN tests in writing and numeracy this week. They should be commended for their efforts! Huge efforts were put in and there were some fantastic results! It should be noted that resilience is one of our school values and this was highly recognisable during these tests! Well done kids! Keep those souvenirs coming in for our Writers Notebook: We are asking that students bring in photos, letters, pictures or small memorabilia to write about. This is to encourage creative writing.

As you are all well aware, camp is next week!! We are all very excited and are hoping students and families are getting organised throughout the week! Please see the message below for final details.

COTTAGE BY THE SEA- 3/4 CAMP 2013
Finally the much anticipated camp is almost here. If you have any concerns please make contact with your child’s teacher to discuss.

Students need to be dropped off under the shade sails at 7.45 am so that buses can depart at 8.00 am sharp. This is to ensure that we minimise the congestion out the front of the school and reach Queenscliff early enough to settle into camp before heading off to Point Lonsdale. Students will require a packed lunch for this day. Please check over equipment list. An essential item is a pair of shoes to go rock pooling at Point Lonsdale. Old sneakers are ideal. If you are having difficulty supplying items, please make contact with staff. The camp only has showers, so please ensure that your child is familiar with turning on the shower, shampooing hair etc. Staff do supervise at this time and can assist, however this is an opportunity for your child to develop independence. This also assists staff and ensures that things run smoothly for all concerned at this time.

We are asking that students do not take electronic devices and cameras. Staff will take photos regularly throughout the camp and teachers will organise for students to receive photos of the camp. Students may bring $5 to spend at the Marine Centre or at the Fairy Park. This needs to be handed to your child’s teacher, in a named plastic bag, the morning of the camp.

Monies need to be finalised before the camp. A reminder that monies paid are non-refundable, as the camp is budgeted and finalised on the number of children who have indicated that they will be attending the camp. We are all looking forward to an enjoyable camp, spending time with your child in an alternate setting and ensuring their enjoyment of the camp. We are sure your child will enjoy their time at camp. Members of staff attending the camp are; Leah Backas, Jacqui O’Shea, Hayden Polglase, Wendy Jackson, Lee Rees, Ben Dyett and Michael Lawlor

Thanks for your ongoing support,
Leah Backas, Jacqui O’Shea and Hayden Polglase.

Junior Department News
Grades 1 & 2 News
In the junior Department over the next few weeks we are working really hard to improve our comprehension when reading. We would like to thank parents who are hearing their children read at home. We also would encourage parents to ask their children one or two questions about what they have read.

Another thank you to parents who are coming in to hear reading in the rooms.

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.............
A reminder that the Premier’s Reading Challenge is now open and we are waiting for forms to be returned. We still require all children to have a bottle of drinking water on their tables and ask parents to name these.

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

Prep News
Our word of the week is ‘on’ and our letter of the week is ‘Ff’, please discuss these with your child. Please ensure your child has brain food and enough food for afternoon recess as we still have some children without brain food or an afternoon snack.

We are pleased to be catering for all parents at the end of the day. If you have selected to collect your child from class can you please wait until other grade Prep/One/Two students have left the building before you enter to collect your child. This would be greatly appreciated.

Natalie, Kim & Jo.

GENERAL NEWS
ROOM 7 FUNDRAISER - GUESS THE LOLLY JAR COMP.
Each lunch break there will be the opportunity to guess how many lollies in a jar. Students will set up in the foyer area with jar to collect money. Each guess is 50¢ or 3 guesses for $1. Prize will be all the lollies and the beautiful jar. (Lollies are guaranteed to be nut free.)

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

Sandy

EASTER EGG RAFFLE
Our annual Easter Egg raffle will be drawn 28th March.
Thank you to those families who have donated Easter eggs/items for the Easter raffle. We are asking all families to make a donation of an Easter egg or chocolate item for the raffle. Items can be dropped off at the office any time.
Extra tickets are available at the office. A mystery prize for the student in each class who sells the most tickets will be given. Extra books of tickets are available from the office.
Thank you for your support in making our raffle a successful event.

Room 6, Mrs Ball & Mrs Jackson
Please write your child’s name and Home Group on the cover of the Raffle Tickets.

OUR PREM’S READING CHALLENGE
A reminder that the Premier’s Reading Challenge is now open and we are waiting for forms to be returned.

LUNCHTIME DRINKS
We still require all children to have a bottle of drinking water on their tables and ask parents to name these.

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

Accounts went 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 15th Mar. - Fruit Platter & Juice / Memory games
Fri 16th Mar. - Sandwiches / Music
Mon 19th Mar. - Frozen Yoghurt / Playground fun
Tues 20th Mar. - Savoury Biscuits & Cordial / Balloon Fun
Wed 21st Mar. - Milk & Cookies / Free Play on oval

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

World facts from Bailey C - Russia is the biggest country in the world. Cows have four stomachs. (From a session held at the start of the ASC program.)

Reminder: OSHC 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.

Please be aware that only authorised people over 18 can collect children from ASC.

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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.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIG HILL SCHOOL FAIR
Friday the 16th of March - 5pm till 8pm

Bendigo Family Nature Club
Fossils in the Forest - Bendigo's prehistoric past
When: Sunday 18 March, 9:45am start - 12pm
Where: Location provided on registration  Cost: Nothing, it's free
Registration essential: bendigonatureclub@gmail.com or 5443-1326

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
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. Dates for 2012: 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.

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