To students, families and friends,

Welcome to Specimen Hill Primary school for 2012. I hope that 2012 is an exciting and rewarding year for all students as well as for parents. A special welcome to all new students especially prep students and families and I hope that your time with Specimen Hill is enjoyable and productive.

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

Art- Sandy Young
LOTE/Reading Recovery- Bu Turpie
Reading Recovery- Marilyn McKnight (Term 1) Teresa Smart (Terms 2/3/4)
Phys Ed- Ben Dyett
Wendy Jackson- School Improvement Officer/coaching/1 / 2-teacher.
Bernadette Wright-Wellbeing Officer (Monday/Thursday/ Friday)
Acting Assistant Principal/Wellbeing coordinator- Corey Warne
Acting Principal-Di Craig

A special welcome to Jo Bergin who has returned from leave and to Ben Dyett and Marilyn McKnight who has joined the staff for Term 1.

Please try to take the time to make contact with your child’s teacher to familiarise yourself with your child’s learning environment.

PARENT HELPERS
We are seeking parent helpers to provide support in the classrooms. Different classes require different time-slots and support. If you are interested please speak to your child’s teacher to organise an arranged time-slot. During week 4 there will be a Parent training session to support this program. All classroom helpers require a Working with Children’s Check and need to read and sign the Parent Protocol Agreement before assisting in the school. Please see Kaye or Val in the office for these forms.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
School Council elections will be taking place over the coming weeks and I will be calling for nominations tomorrow (Thursday 9th Feb). I encourage all parents/guardians to consider being nominated for this role. School Council is the governing body of our school and is a highly responsible and valued position. School Council sets the direction of the school and endorses the key planning, evaluation and reporting documents of the school. At Specimen Hill we are extremely fortunate in that we have a very cohesive, hard working and dedicated Council who focus on making Specimen Hill the best learning environment for all students.

DOG FREE ZONE
A reminder that all schools are DOG FREE zones to protect our students and the dog owners from any incidences or harm. If you wish to bring a dog or any animal up to school this must only be done through a prior arrangement with the class teacher. An opportune time can then be arranged.

KEY VALUES
In term 4 of 2011 the School Strategic Plan setting the direction for the school for the next 4 years was approved. A key component of the plan is the introduction of 5 key values which will underpin all learning and actions of our students. These are: persistence, resilience, excellence, honesty and respect.

MORNING TEA
There will be a morning tea for new families and Prep parents this Friday morning from 9.00 to 10.00 in the Staffroom. This is an opportunity to come along and to meet other parents and to develop new friendships and connections. All family and friends welcome.

BLACK SATURDAY BUSHFIRES ANNIVERSARY
Yesterday we remembered and honoured the 3rd Anniversary of the Black Saturday Bushfires which swept across Victoria in 2009. Many families from our school community were directly affected and it is pleasing to see that they have managed to move on with such courage and resilience.

GR. 5/6 ICT MEETINGS
Allan Sing and the 5 / 6 team have been conducting parent/ student ICT meetings which are a prerequisite to all students receiving their netbooks. The final meeting for parents to attend will be held on Monday 13th February at 9.00am.
THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Wayne Sherriff, Trevor Humphreys, Trevor Cox, Sally Brown and Corey Warne who worked tirelessly over the holidays preparing our school oval for the 2012 year. It looks green, lush and inviting. A great effort.

ISSUE/CONCERNS

Please do not hesitate to see Corey Warne or myself if you have an issue or any concerns regarding your child’s education or family circumstances. If we work together we can make school a positive and enjoyable environment for all.

Have a wonderful week.
Di Craig (Acting Principal)

Dates to Remember…

Fri 24 Feb - Pupil Free Day
20-22nd Mar - 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

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 is enclosed - (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 (form enclosed)

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 thereafter.
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 (form enclosed)

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.

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 school office and be picked up there. This is because our yard duty teachers come in at 3:30pm. Your co-operation is appreciated.

LUNCH IDEA

Macaroni and Vegetable Frittatas

Pack the kids off to school with these pasta-based frittatas. You might not mind them for your lunch either! Store in an air tight container in the fridge, they will keep for up to three days.

Ingredients—makes 6
120g (3/4 cup) macaroni pasta
Olive oil, to grease
2 x 125g cans corn kernels, rinsed, drained
1 small red capsicum, finely chopped
1 medium carrot, peeled, coarsely grated
80g (1 cup) coarsely grated cheddar
7 eggs, lightly whisked
125ml (1/2 cup) milk

Method
1. Cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water following packet directions or until al dente. Drain. Refresh under cold running water. Drain well.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C. Brush six 185ml (3/4 cup) capacity non-stick Texas muffin pans with oil to lightly grease. Combine the macaroni, corn, capsicum, carrot and cheddar in a large bowl. Spoon evenly among prepared pans.
3. Whisk together the egg and milk in a jug and pour over the macaroni mixture. Bake in preheated oven for 20-23 minutes or until just set. Remove from oven. Set aside in the pan for 5 minutes before carefully turning onto a wire rack to cool.

www.taste.com.au

Making School Lunches—Tips

-Keep the servings small
-Cut sandwiches into quarters to make them easier for little hands to manage
-Pack small fruits (eg strawberries) or cut larger fruit into pieces so your child can eat it easily
-Make sure your child can open any containers him or herself
-If warm, add a frozen drink (preferably water) to the lunch box to keep it cool. Wrap in tea towel to prevent dripping.

Toddler and Food

Because of growth spurts and variations in activity, toddlers appetites vary constantly.

Toddlers have small stomachs, so they only need small servings.
Toddlers are very good at judging how much food they need. If children want more of anything they will ask for it. Forcing your child to eat, or finish everything on the plate, can make meal times more stressful. It can also make it more difficult for children to know when they’re full. This puts children at risk of overeating later in life.

You decide what healthy food you offer your children. They decide how much food they will eat. It is never too early to encourage your child to value his or her body for what it can do, rather than how it looks.

In some cases, a child’s appetite might be affected by a health issue. If your child consistently refuses food or you’re concerned about your child’s growth or overall nutrition, see your health professional.

Kids Helpline is Australia’s only free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25. www.kidshelp.com.au

The Raising Children Network has great tip sheets about helping children settle into the new year...

Starting School
PreSchool Practicalities
Settling into Childcare

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

CANTEEN NEWS
We are once again asking for volunteers to help with Canteen on Monday & Fridays (9am-12noon).

Canteen lunches to start Friday 17th February.

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 to go home next week.

Canteen Helpers: Please fill out form below and return to school asap.

After Lunch Sales start and days to be advised

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.

PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE PROGRAM

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

Student: ........................................... Grade .........

I am able to assist with the program on -

Day: ...................................................(fortnightly)

CLASS NEWS

Senior Department News
Our year in the Senior School has begun smoothly and students are generally slotting back into school life quickly.

Distribution of Netbooks is underway and thanks to parent/caregivers who have contributed by attending the Information Sessions held on Monday.

As there have been a few parents unable to attend a session on Monday, another session will be timetabled for 9:00 am, Monday February 13th, in Room 11 at the school.

A reminder that we need to emphasise a sensible and cyber-safe approach to use of these Netbooks at all times. Please organise with your child a location where the Netbook can be charged over-night ready for return and use at school the next day.

All senior students have a diary that they are expected to use at home and school. Please discuss the use of the diary and encourage adding entries to it as part of the home routine.

We look forward to a positive year of personal and academic growth.

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

Middle Department News
The 3/4 team welcome all parents and students to 2012 at Specimen Hill! It's going to be a great year of learning! Students should be congratulated for the way they have settled into their classrooms! We’re seeing organised, eager and friendly learners. What a great start to the year.

We spent last week distributing home reader folders with individual reading logs. Could parents and families please ensure their child is reading for 20 minutes, every night! We saw such positive results from NAPLAN, reading levels and testing last year and this was all due to the extra “miles” of practice that each student was putting in! Spelling testing is currently underway and we are expecting to begin our weekly spelling homework tasks within the next few weeks.
Just a reminder that our middle years camp to Queenscliff is taking place THIS TERM! Notes were handed out at the end of last year. We are requiring the $50 deposit as soon as possible. The total cost will be $200 and families need to start budgeting for this payment, the date is creeping up! The bus will leave from the school on **Tuesday 20th March and return Thursday 22nd March.** This will be a great opportunity for all students! We are aware it may be the first time that some children have spent away from home. Parents need to start discussing this with their child and preparing them for a great, adventurous holiday!!

All 3 grades of the middle years team have an “open door policy.” Feel free to come see us with any issues or concerns!

*Leah Backas, Jacqui OShea and Hayden Polglase.*

**Junior Department News**

**Grade 1/2**

Welcome back to everybody connected with the Grade 1/2’s. We look forward to a productive and co-operative year with you.

Thank you for remembering hats and uniforms. We would like to remind you that we love to see brain food in your child’s lunch box. We ensure that your child eats a sandwich or something similar at lunch, followed by their choice. This is because for the 2 hours after lunch they will need substantial nourishment. We love to see them with a piece of fruit and will constantly encourage this. Water is the preferred drink in our rooms (not forgetting that it is cheap and good for you!!).

Our area is developing some short, sharp spelling homework activities for your child, this will begin next week. Another thank you to all those who are reading with their child each night – practice is the key to improvement here and we need to work together. Please remember to see teachers if you are unsure about anything.

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

**Prep**

Welcome to the first prep news of the year. We have had a wonderful start with no tears on Monday morning at all. The Preps are now getting to know their way around the school routine and are enjoying the fantastic support from their Buddies. We know that the Preps have been very excited to take home readers to share with you each night. Please make sure you use this time to provide a positive reading experience with your child and write a comment into the yellow book to share with us. A reminder to make sure your child has a water bottle for in the classroom every day and fresh fruit/vegetable for brain food to eat during class time. We do this to help their brains function during learning time. Don’t forget that some students still have their School Entry Interviews on Wednesdays. If you are unsure about this, please see your child’s teacher.

Thank you for such a positive start to our year!

*Natalie, Kim & Jo.*

**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

**BOOKCLUB**

Could all bookclub orders be returned to the office by Monday 13th February at 9am please. Sorry no late orders accepted.

*Sandy*

**BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Speci Healthy Breakfast program starts next Wednesday 15th Feb. All children are welcome to attend.

**Time:** 8.15 to 8.45 - children must be in the MPR by 8.30

**Where:** Multi Purpose Room

**What:** Cereal, toast, juice, milo & fruit.

**HEALTHY BREAKFAST**

**Name:** _________________________

**Grade:** _____________

I give my child/children permission to attend the breakfast program.

**Parent’s signature: ______________**

Jenny Ball

**MEDICATION**

If your child requires any medication at school whether natural, bought over the counter or prescribed medication, parents MUST come up to the school to fill out and sign the school Medication forms. We are unable to give medication without this appropriate authorisation. A letter from home is not sufficient.

Medication must have child’s name and label with details on prescribed medicine.

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

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

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.

GOLDEN SQUARE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
Golden Square Junior Football Club will be holding their Registration Day on Sunday February 12, 2012 between 11am and 2pm at the Wade Street Clubrooms. Fees are $90 for under 9 & 10 and $140 for Under 12, 14 & 16. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Registrar, Wendy Draper on either 5447 8045 or 0428 544 780.

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.

KANGAROO FLAT JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
Registration Day Sunday 12th February 11.30am to 1.30pm Kangaroo Flat Sports Club, Dower Park All new and existing players welcome. Please bring along your doctors detail, Medicare card and any other relevant information. Sausage sizzle and drinks available on the day.
Fees: Under 9’s and Under 10’s $80; Under 12’s, 14’s and 16’s $125. Family discounts will apply. Registration forms will be available on the day or if you want to save time you can access the forms at www.kangarooflatjfc.com.au, complete and bring them with you. Any further enquiries, please call Linda Stagg on 0400 230 254

- 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

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Fundraiser
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