To students, parents and friends,
Welcome to week 5 of Term 2.

School Values: excellence, honesty, persistence, resilience and respect.

Prep students for 2014
We are seeking enrolments from any Pre-school students starting school next year. If you have a family member, a friend or neighbour who is currently attending Kinder you can please remind their parents to visit the school and to collect their enrolment forms from the school office. We are always keen to show prospective parents around the school to highlight the many programs that we have to offer all students.

Parents and Friends and Mother’s Day Stall
Thank you to everyone who donated gifts or their time to the mother’s Day Stall last Friday. I’m sure that there were many happy children and mothers on Mother’s Day last Sunday. The stall raised a wonderful amount of approx. $1600.00. Special thanks to the Parents and Friends for the great effort.

Education Week
Next week is Education week in all government schools across Victoria. We have a range of activities operating in the school throughout the week. An information sheet will be sent home on Friday highlighting the many activities.

Thursday 23rd May from 9.00 to 11.45 is the school’s Open Day. Visitors to the school will receive guided tours of the school by our Junior School Councillors. These will start from the front office. Classrooms will be open for parents, grandparents and friends to visit children’s classrooms and to see the children in operation in the classroom. There will be coffee and tea in the staffroom throughout the morning for all interested visitors. The 2014 Prep information evening will be held at 6pm on Thursday 23rd in the Prep rooms. There will be baby-sitting available.

NAPLAN
We have had an extremely busy week with NAPLAN testing this week. Breakfast has been operating every morning for all students and it was wonderful to see at least 80 students for breakfast this morning. The final morning for breakfast will be tomorrow morning from 8.00 to 8.30. There has also been wonderful cooperation from all staff members in preparing the breakfast. How wonderful to see students starting the day on a full stomach.

The testing is progressing well and I hope that all students have put in their best effort. The results will not be returned to school until about September.

Teddy Bear Hospital
Yesterday the Prep students had the benefit of a group of trainee doctors from Monash University visiting the school to run the Teddy Bear hospital. What a fabulous program! The students rotated through 9 activities taking their teddies or soft toys along as the patients. They learnt a lot about how not to spread germs and how easily they are spread, all about the importance of fruit and healthy eating and the students also had their thumbs plastered!

Our sincere thanks to the very kind, caring and thoughtful Doctors in training, and especially to the big cuddly bear who was bouncy around the activities giving out free hugs.

Student Reports
Student reports will be going home during week 2 of term 3 this year. This is to enable more teaching and learning time before students are assessed and their progress reported on. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in week 3.

Please do not hesitate to contact Corey or myself at school if you have any concerns or queries.

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead,

Di Craig (Acting Principal)
Our children’s future in the very best of hands

CLASS NEWS

SENIOR DEPARTMENT

Dear parents,

This week has had a heavy Naplan focus. Congratulations must go to the Year 5 students on the super effort they are putting in to doing their Naplan tests. Thank you to the Grade 6 students for being so flexible with changing classes and routines to allow the testing to take place smoothly.

We have slowly but steadily been building up the classroom libraries with a lot of new titles. When hearing your child read ask them what books are on their ‘to read next’ list. Good readers try to have a number of books in their ‘to read next’ pile.

A number of students are only happy when they get to work with their friends. The ability to work in a group with a variety of peers is an important life skill. This term we will be focusing on the skills students need to work in groups and are asking them to set a working in groups goal.

Anne, Matt and Scott

MIDDLE YEARS DEPARTMENT

Thank you to parents for ensuring their children are coming to school with healthy and nutritious lunches each day. As we are currently completing our NAPLAN tests, can parents please continue to monitor this. It is also extremely important that students are having a restful sleep each night before coming to school. Likewise, students need to be eating a healthy and substantial breakfast to ensure their brains are fed and ready to be active during all learning situations.

This week we have been offering free breakfast to all children in the senior years (grades 3-6) from 8:10am - 8:45am. It has been wonderful to see so many children joining us to enjoy some toast, cereal and a warm cup of Milo. Our Breakfast Program will continue tomorrow, so it would be terrific to see all children from grades 3 and 4 joining us. The Breakfast Program will be held in the multi-purpose room.

Currently, our students are learning about Australian history as part of their Integrated Studies topic. If parents have any historical artefacts they are happy for their children to bring along and share with the class, that would be fantastic. In particular we are looking at the historical impact Indigenous Australians have played in our history, the First Fleet and also the Gold Rush.

Can parents please continue to supervise their children read each night. Students should be reading ‘just right’ books for at least 15 minutes each school night.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Leah, Hayden, Rebecca & Adam

JUNIOR CLASS

LITERACY

This week all students have been writing Narratives. These are stories which have a setting, characters and a plot with a solution. They also have a beginning, a middle and an end. The topic this week has been Monsters.

MATHS

Our focus this week has been on Money and Time. Ask your children which animal is on each coin. They should know!

We completed some rubbings using the coins.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

‘Looking Back in Time’ - This week we have created a Timeline showing how Communication and Transport have changed and developed over the years.

TISSUES

Thanks to the many families who have already sent along a box of tissues to be used by the class. It would be great if all families could please send a box along to school.

READING AWARDS

Many students are achieving milestones in their home reading. Some have reached 100 nights of Home Reading. Congratulations to all these students and their families.

REMINDERS:

SPELLING BOOKS - back to school by Fridays please.

NUDE FOOD DAY - every Thursday.

HOME READING - regularly each night.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES - Monday 2.45 pm.

Until next week.

Aaron, Jenny, Jo, Joan and Kim.

PREPS

WOW!! We have had a wonderful week since our last newsletter. Preps enjoyed visiting the Mothers Day stall with their money and chose a beautiful gift for their mum and decorated a bag. We hope you all enjoyed them as much as your children loved making them for you.

Yesterday we took part in the wonderful Teddy Bears Hospital program, the Preps had the chance to experience many aspects of hospitals and Doctors visits. Please ask your child to tell you all about it and listen closely to all the exciting activities they did. We have some communication journals still needing to be returned. Make sure to continue with the fabulous nightly reading and keyring words, this is making a difference in the classroom.

Natalie, Di and Kim
**OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE**
ASHC Phone: 0447 788 636
Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations.
BSHC Phone: 0438 062 561
Please ring Karen Emerson for bookings/cancellations.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
Some nights and mornings are FULL, bookings are essential.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
Limited positions are available this Term so late cancellations will incur a fee this term. 24 hours notice is required to cancel your booking.

As from Monday 4th March all parents/guardians will be required to enter the school from the top gate in Tambour Heights and through the end door of the Multi Purpose room when picking up your child/children. The table and sign-out book will be placed just inside the Multi purpose room door.
The front sliding glass doors will be locked and will no longer be an access point for OSHC. Parking in Tambour Heights for easier access may be more practical in future.

**STARS OF THE WEEK**
Room 1 Kasey M
Room 2 Josephine
Room 3 Liberty F
Room 4 Ryan T
Room 5 Ricki Lee C
Room 6 Jordyn A
Room 7 Tom R
Room 8 Darcy R
Room 9 Riley D
Room 10 Layzlen M
Room 11 Maxine C
Room 12 Zac C
Room 12 Logan B
(plainty for being left out last week)
Room 13 Brooklyn R
LOTE Award Trasiah C
OSHC Award Maggie F
Nude Food Prep 1 M - 8 wrappers

**PARENTS’ & FRIENDS’ NEWS**

Thank you to the Speci community for your generous support of the Mother’s Day Stall. Each child put a great deal of thought in to choosing their gifts. Approximately $800 was rasied for Parents and Friends to put towards their projects.

This Friday (17th May) at 2:30pm in the Staffroom: Speci Parents and Friends Afternoon Tea. All welcome! Please bring a plate of food to share, if you are able. Under school age children welcome, toys provided.

**SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM**
EVERY WEDNESDAY
All children are welcome from 8:15am

**FOUND**
A vintage ring has been handed in at the office. A full description will be required upon pick up.

**SWIMMING 2013**
As part of our curriculum here at Specimen Hill Primary School, we are offering a Swimming Program in collaboration with the Eaglehawk YMCA. The program will be run at the YMCA in Eaglehawk and is offered to all students. The program runs for two weeks, with students participating in six sessions. The program begins on Monday 17th June. Swimming dates for the program are as follows: Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th followed by Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th May and Friday 1st of June.

The cost for this year’s swimming program will be $57 per student which will cover them for all six sessions of the swimming program.

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1st Prize  Bailey O  5/6C
2nd Prize  Deakon P  P/1M
3rd Prize  Jasmin A  5/6R
4th Prize  Emily   5/6P
5th Prize  Lilly    1/2B

Messy May Madness
+ Art/craft activities for 50min
+ Theme talk for 10min

...followed by a sit-down dinner
Bring a parent - gold coin donation.
This Friday 17th May, 5pm-6.30pm
Uniting Church Chum St cnr Maple Golden Square

Simply Messy!  Simply Fun!

Walking School Bus
Tomorrow morning (Thursday) the ‘Walking School Bus’ will be operating with pick up time at 8.30. There are 3 points of collection.

1. At Specimen Hill Rd at the school crossing.
2. At the corner of Chum and Maple St.
3. At the Marong Rd school crossing.

We look forward to meeting students at those

EOI for Pinafores
Price would be $52.00 each (GST inclusive)
Could you please let the office know if you would be interested in purchasing a pinafore for your child for the winter months.

THE SPECI READING
CHALLENGE HAS BEGUN!!
Any children that would like to sign up can see Mrs Pelly for a permission note.
Junior students are not expected to read books on their own but to “experience” these books by a parent or sibling reading to them.

LIBRARY NEWS
May is National Family Reading Month...So read more in May. Read every day. Lead a better lie.
We encourage all families to get involved.
Book Club orders due back next Wednesday 22nd May at 9.00 am.

EOI for Pinafores
Price would be $52.00 each (GST inclusive)
Could you please let the office know if you would be interested in purchasing a pinafore for your child for the winter months.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

This group is suitable for parents and carers of children who learn differently or are struggling with their education.

The group aims to support parents/carer's by:
• Providing educational and topical information which can then be discussed in a supportive and safe environment
• Allowing parents/carers to share success, hardships, concerns and experiences with others in similar positions
• Inviting professionals to share with the group about community resources.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month
Time: 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm
Location: Bendigo Neighbourhood House,
21 Neale Street, Bendigo

Thursday 16th May
Importance of self-care.
Caring for your relationships
Strategies for making ‘me’ time
Sharing ideas

Thursday 20th June
DVD - “How Difficult can this be?”
This is a powerful DVD that puts you in the world of a child who has learning difficulties, helping you to understand how they feel.

This group is run by volunteers who have an interest in children’s experience with learning. Whilst they have a great deal of knowledge and personal experience, they are unable to provide professional advice.
Dear John,

How are you? I have been very busy knitting socks for you to wear. Last week I made lots of ANZAC biscuits and will send them off soon. Not long ago some bombs went off in our neighbourhood but we were safe underground. Love from Riley and Luke

Dear Pop and Dad,

How are you both? I love you both. What are you doing now? We have been doing school work. I miss you dad. We made ANZAC biscuits. We have been reading at school and our table has the most points. We just want you to come back.

From Sophie and Bronte

Dear John,

How are you? We’ve been having to sleep in the underground station. Before the bombing we were very busy in the kitchen making fruit cake and ANZAC biscuits. But I don't like sleeping in the underground station.

From Jordy and Jed

Dear John,

How are you? In our neighbourhood they’ve been dropping bombs. We’ve been very busy in the kitchen making fruit cake and ANZAC biscuits. Not long ago a bomb went off but luckily I was underground. We are making healthy for you and we are worried.

Love from Lily, Rogan and Hayley.

Dear Pop and Dad,

How are you both? I love you both. What are you doing now? We have been doing school work. I miss you dad. We made ANZAC biscuits. We have been reading at school and our table has the most points. We just want you to come back.

From Sophie and Bronte

Our children’s future in the very best of hands…………….
In Art we made a beautiful emu. It was fun too. We had newspaper for feathers. **By Tahlia.**

We made emus. 1. We cut the head and body. 2. We made wobbly legs. 3. We cut some feet. 4 We traced around our hands. 5. We cut the hand shape. 6. We stick their feathers on the body. **By Trinity.**

We made an emu in Art. Cut out the head and body and legs. We cut out feathers by tracing our hands on newspaper. Then we stuck everything together. Then we were done. **By Skylar & Braydee**

We cut emus, the head and the body. We cut the legs and stuck them on the springy legs. **By Taryn & Akaisha.**

We cut the feet out. We made springy legs. We traced around our hands. We cut around the shape. **By Isabelle and Sphie.**

We made an emu in Art. We cut the head and body and last around our hand. **By Kurtis and Mason.**

We cut the neck out and the body. We get newspaper for the feathers. **By Jayden.**

We made emus. We folded the legs. **By Bailey.**

We made emus. We had to fold the legs and we had to paste the newspaper. **By Corey.**

We made emus in Art. We cut the feet. We traced around our hands on to newspaper, then cut them out for feathers. We cut the head and the body. **By Ricky-Lee & Mrs. E.**

Today we made emus out of paper. You will need: newspaper, glue, texta pen, paper with emu body and head and neck printed on and long strips of paper. **By Xavier & Connor.**

We made emus out of paper. **By Laine.**

Today we used heaps of materials to make bottle people. It was fun. **By Zach.**

In Art I used materials, color, form, and paper. **By Georgia**

In Art I used different techniques. I used glue, tape and materials to make a figure. **By Caleb.**

Today we worked with ink. We had to blow hard through the straw. We had to make trees out of ink. **By Keeley.**
JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Report On The GRIP Leadership Day- 5/6 Students

On the 1st of May, 8 5/6 JSC students went to the GRIP Leadership Conference. GRIP stands for Growth, Relationship, Integrity and People. While we were there, we learnt a lot of different leadership skills, one of them being “You don’t have to have a badge to be a leader.” Most of the students from Speci got to go up on the stage and volunteered to do different activities, over 400 students from other schools went to the GRIP Leadership Conference.

We also learnt about “Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” We learnt about this because it has a different meaning to do with leadership, Heads means “thinking of others” Shoulders is “Carrying the load for others” Knees “Moving forward” and Toes is “Balance your responsibilities.”

Going to the GRIP Leadership Conference has helped us learn and be better Leaders in the school. It was a fantastic experience.

TEAM HOYT

Rick was going to be put up for adoption then until his dad Dick said he will fight for him to stay in the family. Dick took Rick on all of his marathons and iron man competitions. At the start Rick told his father that he wanted to participate in the 5-mile benefit run for a lacrosse player. Dick agreed to push Rick in the wheelchair. Rick told his father “dad when I’m running it feels like I’m not handicapped”. This realization was just the beginning of what would come over 1,000 races completed, including marathons, duathlons, triathlons and 6 of them have been iron man completed. The Hoyt family displays many of the Specimen Hill Primary School values. Rick and Dick together as a team show persistence, resilience and great courage when competing in these gruelling events.

JELLY BABY MONTH

During May the junior school council will be raising money for the juvenile diabetes research foundation. As a part of the fundraising the JSC will be selling badges, key rings, lip balms and jelly babies. All donations will go towards raising money for this great cause. Products will be on sale at the end of next week.

FUNDRAISER

Last week on the Friday we had a fundraiser for a former student at speci to go to the World Dwarf Games in America, we raised $221 dollars for her. In the coming week a presentation will be held in assembly.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Thursday 16th May**  
**WALKING SCHOOL BUS**

**Friday 17th May**  
P & F Afternoon Tea - 2.30 pm

**Monday - Frday 20-24 May**  
Education Week

**Thursday 23rd May**  
Open Day & School tours  
9.00 - 11.00 am

**Thursday 23rd May**  
Prep Information Evening - 6.00 pm

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**Important Dates to remember for School:**

- **Thursday 23rd May** - Open Day & School Tours  
  9.00 - 11.15 am
- **Thursday 23rd May** - Parent Information Sessions - 6.00 pm
- **Monday June 10th** — Public Holiday
- **17th/18th/19th/24th/25th/26th June** — Whole school swim program
- **Friday June 28th** — End of Term 2

**Term Dates — 2013:**

Term 2: 15th April to 28th June

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**BRING CULTURAL EXCHANGE INTO YOUR HOME!**

STS Student Exchange are seeking Aussie families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family. Aussie families come from all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds, that’s what makes up our country. Our volunteer host families provide room & board and treat their host son or daughter as a member of their own family. Exchange students have their own spending money and medical insurance. While your exchange student is learning about Australian culture, your family members will learn about theirs. What a great way for your children to learn about another country!

**CONTACT US TODAY TO START YOUR ADVENTURE IN STUDENT EXCHANGE!**

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