Dear students, families and friends,
Welcome to the final newsletter of the term and the year.

The Food Fair and concert
What a huge night. There was a wonderful variety of food choices offered at the Food Fair last week. A huge thank you to the people who contributed in some way. It may have been through providing food, helping out with the cooking or preparation or serving on the night. Your generosity in helping is truly appreciated. To everyone who came along to purchase goods, the fair would not happen without your patronage. Thank you. To Kaye Blackley and the school staff who did an amazing job—thank you and well done. The total raised for the night was $3500, how wonderful. This will go towards our annual Fundraising effort.

The concert occurred without a glitch. The children all sang beautifully and did so in such a joyous manner. Thank you to Leah Backas for her time spent in preparing the students and to other staff members for their support. What a great night it was.

Specimen Hill Dux Award

Last night at the Grade 6 graduation it was an amazing evening. The students spoke in such a clear and passionate manner of their memorable moments of their time at Speci Hill. Congratulations to every student, your speeches were fabulous and spoken from the heart.

Every child looked resplendent in their finery and a special thank you to Mr Pysing for his thorough organisation of the evening, to Anne Rochford and to Matthew Curnow for preparing the students for the evening also.

Award winners were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Edward D.</th>
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Parent Helpers morning Tea.
Last Monday we held the Parent Helpers morning tea. There were a number of parents who arrived and some apologies. It is only a small acknowledgement of the wonderful contribution that parents make to the school community. Without their input many programs and activities would not go ahead. My sincere thanks to you all, for your support and for investing in and valuing the education of your children.

Graduation
Last night at the Grade 6 graduation it was an amazing evening. The students spoke in such a clear and passionate manner of their memorable moments of their time at Speci Hill. Congratulations to every student, your speeches were fabulous and spoken from the heart.

Every child looked resplendent in their finery and a special thank you to the parents for preparing them so well. Special thanks must also go to Mr Pysing for his thorough organisation of the evening, to Anne Rochford and to Matthew Curnow for preparing the students for the evening also.

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2014
Teachers will return to school on Tuesday 28th January and students from Grades 1 to 6 will arrive on Wednesday 29th January. New prep for 2014 will have a letter indicating their interview time and date arriving in the mail from next week.

Thank you all for a very hectic but enjoyable year of teaching and learning, fun and friendship. Your keen interest in your child’s education, wellbeing, progress and for their future is our shared goal. Together we work to prepare each child for life. My sincere thanks for working with us all to build, and to strengthen this learning partnership.

Best wishes for a happy, safe and exciting Christmas and holiday break and I look forward to seeing you all back on board for an even better year in 2014.

Di Craig
Principal
Our children’s future in the very best of hands……………

CLASS NEWS

SENIOR DEPARTMENT
Dear Parents
Thank you for all your support this year, whether it was helping with fund raisers, sports days or helping your child with their homework and reading.

It is hard to believe another school year is drawing to a close and this is our last newsletter entry for the year. The parents of Year 6 students are probably finding it unbelievable that seven years can go so quickly and in a few short months their child will be at secondary school. Knowing how quickly it all passes our holiday wish for you is that you have time to just enjoy being with your child, playing, talking, laughing.

Have a safe and merry Christmas.

Scott, Matt and Anne

PREPS
Wow, what a wonderful year it has been! The Preps have come so far. We are very proud of their achievements. Thank you for your support throughout the year.

If Parents are available to come into the Prep Class rooms early on Friday at 1:20pm... There will be a special presentation.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Natalie, Di and Kim.

NETBOOKS – please read the documentation that your child has brought home about the Netbooks. Damage to Netbooks including missing keys and damaged chargers need to be paid for by the student.

MIDDLE YEARS DEPARTMENT
Well here we are in the last week of school for 2013. We would like to thank all families for their continued support over the year. We have thoroughly enjoyed teaching the grade 3/4’s this year and couldn’t have had such a successful year without your help! To celebrate the fantastic year the students have had, we are throwing a department party on Friday. Students from each class have been asked to donate an item towards the party:

3/4B - Drinks (cordial, juice, soft drink)
3/4E - Sweets and cakes
3/4P - Savouries
3/4T - Decorations, table cloths, plastic cups and plates, serviettes.

We will participate in the ‘Annual Grade 3/4 Dodge ball Championship’ after the party!

On behalf of the 3/4 team, we would like to wish Mr Tanner the best of luck for his wedding, which will take place over the holidays. We extend our warmest wishes to Adam and Jac and know that this will be a very special time for them!

We wish all families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe and relaxing break and we will see you next year, ready and refreshed for 2014!

Leah, Hayden, Rebecca and Adam

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
Food Fair and School Concert
Wow! What a wonderful night last Thursday was. Thank you to all the fabulous families who attended making the night such a success. The Children were thrilled to finally be on stage performing in front of their family and friends. Congratulations kids! all the hard work certainly paid off!

Final Days
Well, here we are at the final newsletter of 2013! We would like to thank all the people who have taken an active part in their children’s school year, with nightly reading and taking part in school activities. It is very important that your child is aware of how interested and supportive you are of their education. We have had a fantastic year of learning and fun. We wish you all safe and happy holidays and look forward to seeing you in 2014.

We Wish Mr Taylor all the best at his new school and thank him for being a part of the fabulous 1/2 team in 2013.

Aaron, Jenny, Jo, Joan and Kim.

CLAIM LOST PROPERTY

Many articles of Lost Property clothing still remain in the Art Room unclaimed. If your child has a missing uniform item, please check the Art Room before the end of the week.
3/4 CAMP 2014
Students in Years 3 and 4 in 2014 will have the opportunity to participate in a 3 day/2 night camp to Queenscliff staying at Cottage by The Sea during the first week of April 2014. This is a wonderful camp where students have the opportunity to go rock pooling with knowledgeable guides, visit the Marine Centre to experience marine animals up close, visit the Queenscliff Fort and conclude with a visit to The Fairy Park on their way home. In addition to this students will spend leisure time, enjoying the playgrounds at the camp and playing on the beach, with their friends and teachers. A great time is had by all!

Expression of Interest
Next week, students who will be entering Years 3 and 4 next year, will attend an information session provided by teachers who have previously attended the camp. This session will provide students with an understanding of the activities that they will have the opportunity to participate in, along with details about Cottage by the Sea. This will include information about the meals, sleeping arrangements and the physical set up of the camp. After the session, students will be given an expression of interest form. We are asking parents to complete the form to indicate whether or not their child will be attending the camp. We ask that a deposit of $50.00 be paid to secure their place on camp.

CHINESE HOME STAY
BENDIGO SENIOR STUDENTS
Bendigo Senior Secondary College are currently looking for Expressions of Interest from families in the Bendigo area to host international students as part of their International Program. Students in this program are usually 16-18 years of age and come to us from other countries (with most coming from China) to complete our English Language Centre course and their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Students are usually with us for 2 ½ to 3 years and may stay with one or more different families across this time. Each student needs to be placed with a caring homestay who will look after them as a member of the family. The homestay experience not only benefits international students in gaining an understanding of Australian life and improving their English, it also provides an opportunity for the homestay family members lives to be enriched by learning about another culture. If the family have children who are learning an Asian language such as Chinese, it can also be a great opportunity for the children to progress their intercultural understanding and language skills.

To become an eligible homestay family, you will need to be able to:
· help the student integrate themselves into Australian life
· provide a bedroom for each student (with a desk, bed etc.)
· provide three meals a day plus snacks
· have a current Working with Children Check for all family members 18 or older (or be eligible to apply)

Each homestay family will receive a financial payment per student per week to assist with any associated costs.

For further information regarding the BSSC Homestay Program please contact Christina Xie (BSSC Homestay Coordinator) on: B: 5443 1222 / M: 0429 524 075 /
Email: xie.christina@bssc.edu.au or Linda Lyons (BSSC Assistant Principal) lyons.linda@bssc.edu.au

END OF YEAR OSHC
$ ACCOUNTS $
PLEASE ENSURE ALL OUT OF SCHOOL CARE ACCOUNTS ARE FINALISED THIS WEEK

2014 ENROLMENTS
IF YOU ARE REQUIRING OUT OF SCHOOL CARE FOR 2014 NEW ENROLMENT FORMS WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED

TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN 2014
If your child is starting primary school or secondary school in 2014, you may have a few questions. Find out how you can support your child to take the next step in their learning journey at education.vic.gov.au/badidsschool
PREP PELLY AT GYM!
Thank you to the families of the school community who have also made generous donations towards some of the food stall items. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO HAVE MADE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL FOOD FAIR.

CLASS OF 2013
STARS OF THE WEEK  16/12/13
Room 1  Olive D.
Room 2  India P.
Room 3  Aidan R.
Room 4  Tyrone H.
Room 5  Akaisha L.
Room 6  Akaishia A.
Room 7  Molly N.
Room 8  ALL STUDENTS
Room 9
Room 10
Room 11  Chantel S.
Room 12  Jasmin A.
Room 13
Nude Food  “Consistently Awesome”  Prep/One Manley (Champs!)

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS
ROOM 1
LILLYBELLE B.
ALICIA B.
BAILEY H.
ROOM 2
LOGAN K
RYAN M
AMALI P
GEMMA P.
TREI S.
ROOM 3
TREY D.
WILL J.
ASHTON MC
TIFFINY P.
SHAKYHA R
ROOM 4
SOPHIE E.
HAYLEY H.
RYAN T.
TARRAS P.
ROOM 5
BLAKE D.
LANE F.
TIANA PC
SOPHIE W.
ROOM 6
AKAIASHA A.
KYNAN H.
JED G.
RILEY H.
LUKE J.
ROOM 7
BAILEY C.
JAKE N.
KOBE R.
ROOM 8
JASMIN B.
ZACH C
BAILIN M.
ROOM 9
KIRA H.
SHAKIRA N.
ROOM 10
HAYLEY C.
ZAK O.
HOPE L.
KAITLYN W
KEARLEY S.
ROOM 11
ANTON P.
ISOBEL MC
WILLIAM M.
ROOM 12
JESSICA S.
DECODA W.
ROOM 13
JAYDEN A.R.
LIAM P.
TALICEA W.
TREY A.
MICHAEL C.

THE LIBRARY IS NOW CLOSED FOR 2013
Borrowing will begin again next year. All school books need to be returned immediately. The students listed here have overdue books which must be returned. There is a fee for LOST BOOKS = $10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2014

FRI 24 JAN  OFFICE OPEN

WED 29 JAN  RETURN TO SCHOOL GR 1 - 6

FRI 31 JAN  PREP’s FIRST DAY

TERM DATES 2014
Term One  January 28 to April 4
Term Two  April 22 to June 27
Term Three  July 14 to September 19
Term Four  October 6 to December 19

FOR SALE / RECYCLE
Girls school dress x 2  Size 4 (6)
Netball skirt  Size 10
$10 EACH
Collect from office

NEWSLETTERS & INFORMATION
are available from our website:
www.shps1316.vic.edu.au

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS?

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.........