Welcome to students, parents and friends to week 7 of Term 4, Another busy week with so much happening.

WERRIBEE ZOO TRIP
Yesterday the Grade 3/4 students visited Werribee Zoo on their excursion. It sounds like everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day and a positive experience enabling further follow up to occur in the classroom. Thank you to the 3/4 staff and to Michael and Ruth for their great work in preparing the students beforehand and for the effective supervision on the day. A wonderful team effort.

GOLDEN SQUARE SWIMMING POOL
Specimen Hill is working with the Golden Square swimming pool committee in distributing Season’s Tickets for the summer swimming season. These are a great idea for Christmas presents and also to support your child’s water confidence, skills and safety. The pool is currently undertaking a huge ‘facelift’ in preparation for the opening season. A hard working group of locals have worked tirelessly over the past few months to enable the pool to maintain operation and to provide a high functioning facility for families in the Golden Square/Kangaroo Flat community. Sincere thanks for their work in maintaining a much needed facility for everyone of all ages in the community.

CYBER SAFETY
Last week I spoke about the visit from the detective Tracey who spoke about cyber bullying and cyber safety to the Grade 5/6 students as well as to parents. The ongoing issue with any cyber safety is for parents to maintain open and honest conversations with their children. This is a key point for identifying cyber issues. As parents another key factor is to make sure that you are aware of what your child is accessing in cyber space. This involves having a vigilant home policy of firm computer use rules in the home. These rules should include: having the computer /netbook used in an open area in the home where parents can ‘tune’ into what is being accessed regularly, limiting the time that your child spends on the computer, regularly checking the computer history, speaking openly with your child about inappropriate sites, comments and computer behaviour and having rules around what can and cannot be accessed. Some concerns in this area are about the number of young children accessing inappropriate pornography sites. This is highly prevalent in primary school students and it needs to be monitored closely. At school we are checking netbook histories and educating the students about the negative sides of this behaviour. Can you please take the time to talk with your child (especially those in Grades 5/6) in an open and honest manner about the inappropriateness of this behaviour at such a young age.

TOY SALE
Grade 1/2B students conducted a Toy Sale over the past two days. Thank you for supporting this event, it was very successful and a lot of items have now found new homes.

PUPIL FREE DAY - MONDAY 25TH
Next Monday 25th November is a Pupil Free day at school. Students are not required at school as staff are undertaking Professional Development. The Out of School Hours Care program will be operating from 8.00am to 6pm. If students are attending they must be booked in to the program beforehand.

TRANSITION DAY 3 - PREP 2014
On Tuesday 26th November it is the third Transition Day for 2014 prep students. Parents are not required to remain during the hour long session (9.00 to 10.00). The new prep students will meet their Grade 5/6 buddies who will assist with their induction into Specimen Hill PS.

REQUESTS FOR 2014
If you have a request in relation to your child’s placement in school for 2014 could you put this in writing and address it to Di Craig and post it in the office post box by Wednesday 27th November please. All requests must be based on educational grounds and although requests will be considered it does not mean that the request will necessarily be carried out. All requests need to meet the educational goals of the individual and other students. Teachers know the child best at school and work very hard to place each child in the most productive learning and social environment for every child. If you have any concerns please contact me at school.
Have a great week ahead.
Di Craig
Principal

PUPIL FREE DAY - MONDAY 25TH NOV

CANTEEN ROSTER
FRIDAY 22 NOV
Karen, Roz HH, Terri-Anne

GR6 POLO ORDERS TO BE RETURNED

MONEY MATTERS
Money that is returned to the school along with permission forms, or excursion information sheets, must be enclosed in an envelope, zip lock or paper bag with Students name & room clearly marked.
If the funds are not identifiable, we are unable to allocate against the correct student name.
Envelopes are then placed in the mailbox at the office.
Please assist us in this important matter.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands

SENIOR DEPARTMENT

Dear Parents,

A number of students arrive at school each day tired. Being tired really affects their learning as well as their ability to maintain healthy relationships with their friends. Work with your Year 5/6 child to establish reasonable bedtime routines. Everyone benefits from this.

We are all enjoying the warmer spring weather. During the Personal Development program we discussed how daily hygiene and the use of deodorant becomes more important for active tweens. Please have this conversation again with your child.

Thank you.

Wednesday’s gym program has been enjoyed by all students who participate. It is pleasing to see students give 100% to the sometimes challenging tasks.

Graduation is fast approaching for our Year 6 students and their families. You will have received Scott’s notes but a few reminders:

- Tuesday, December 17th
- 6.00 pm at the Foundry Hotel
- so a group photo can be taken before the meal.
- Neat casual dress code – please contact us with any concerns.

Payments need to be made by December 10th.

Reminders:
- Thursday is nude food day. No wrappers please.
- Homework – nightly reading, number fact revision and spelling.
- Water bottle every day please.
- Thanks

Matt, Scott and Anne

GRADE 6 - CLASS OF 2014 POLO ORDERS RETURNED BY FRIDAY PLEASE.

MIDDLE YEARS DEPARTMENT

Yesterday we had our major excursion to Werribee Open Range Zoo. We were lucky enough to attend an education session on habitats, journey through the safari tour and walk around the zoo. We saw many different animals ranging from meerkats to giraffes to gorillas. All students should be congratulated on their fantastic attitude and behaviour throughout the day. You can read more about our excursion in Kids Corner.

We attended our first gym session last week. It was great to see students participating with such enthusiasm. Most students’ behaved brilliantly and we are looking forward to our next three sessions.

A reminder that Thursdays are Nude Food Days at Speci. Students are encouraged to bring healthy, NUDE food to school with minimal wrappers. We would love to see some of the 3/4 classes receiving the ‘Most Improved’ award at assembly or even winning by having the least amount of wrappers in the school!

Please remind your children to read for at least 20 minutes each night. All students should be reading books that they are interested in and can select these from their classroom libraries or school library.

Leah, Hayden, Rebecca and Adam.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Grade 1/2 NEWS

INTEGRATED STUDIES- “Celebrations”

Our study of world celebrations has begun. We have been brainstorming all the different events which we celebrate in Australia each year. E.g. birthdays, anniversaries, Anzac Day, Easter, weddings, Halloween and many more.

This study will culminate in a study of how countries around the world celebrate Christmas.

This week in Math we are planning a party. The students will be estimating, collecting data, graphing, measuring, completing number stories etc.

Food Fair and School Concert

Music is in the air!!!! All classrooms are now preparing for the biggest event of our school year ‘The Food Fair and Concert’. Please offer to help your classroom teacher as it would be much appreciated. If all families offer to assist in a small role either with planning, preparation or on the night with some time spent in a stall, the night will continue to be a great success as in the past.

NUDE FOOD DAY THURSDAY- every week.

Have you considered making a nude food lunch for your child every day? By buying in bulk and giving a small portion in a container/ziplock bag each day rather than pre-packaged expensive snacks you will save $$/ in your household budget, whilst providing your child with a healthier lunch.

Congratulations to Mrs Manley’s P/1 class for their continued nude food effort. It is commendable. Thanks to the parents as they are the ones that make it happen. The challenge is on now to equal the P/1 M class effort.

Until next week.

Aaron, Jenny, Jo, Joan and Kim.

1/2 Teachers.

PREPS

This week we are focusing on the word ‘have’, blend ‘pl’ and ‘ay’ words. Please encourage conversation about these at home.

Could final communication journals be returned to school as they are the ones that make it happen. The challenge is on now to equal the P/1 M class effort.

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Until next week.

Aaron, Jenny, Jo, Joan and Kim.

1/2 Teachers.
Yesterday, all of the 3/4 Classes went on an excursion to the Werribee Open Range Zoo. First, we took a 2 hour bus drive to Werribee at 8:00am. When we arrived there we had a snack, had a little play and then got organised into our groups. We went on a safari where we saw lots of animals in their natural habitats. We also attended an interactive classroom where we got to touch a tree frog and a ring tailed possum.

When we walked around the zoo we saw lions, cheetahs, gorillas, rhino’s, zebras, giraffes, ostriches and many other animals. We even saw a meerkat doing sit-ups! We would like to thank Mr Tanner, Mr Polglase, Miss Backas, Miss Eastley, Miss Bailey, Ruth and Michael for taking us to the zoo. What a thrilling day!

By Tom and Audrey
As part of 1/2T’s Integrated investigation into ‘Under the Sea’. Students wrote persuasive writing pieces aimed at stopping people littering.

**STOP POLLUTION**

Do you know what it does when you litter? If you think that it just blows around in the wind all day. You’re wrong!

Litter can end up in our creeks, rivers and the sea. The fish can then eat it and die.

*Stop Littering. Imagine - no fishing and no more fish and chips!*

By Ella V.

**STOP THE POLLUTION**

Do you know what happens when you litter?

Rubbish finds its way down the drain and into creeks and rivers and the sea.

It wraps around fish and turtles necks.

*Fish are important and we need to save fish.*

By Keenan S.

**Stop Littering**

Littering is a really bad thing.

If you litter I wrecks our environment and also the fishes habitat.

So please stop littering or at least pick up some rubbish and stop it getting to our beaches.

- By Makenze T.

Do you know what happens when you litter?

It gets wrapped around sea animals necks and fins.

It covers their gills and blow holes.

Stop now and save our animals. If you don’t they will die. If they die we won’t have any of those beautiful creatures like stingrays, sharks, dolphins, sea stars, sea horses, sea dragons, turtles, whales, eels, sea weed, sea anemones, salmon, flathead, rainbow fish and clown fish.

So please don’t litter!

By Bella L.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands..............
2013 SPECI CONCERT
IS BACK!!
This years theme is
Rock and Roll.
Starting at 7:00pm
December 12th
after the food fair.
All grades will be performing,
plus junior and senior choir.

PARENTS’ & FRIENDS’ NEWS
General Meeting - 6th December at 1:30pm
in the Library - All Welcome.

Outide 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,
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.

Please note bookings for most sessions are almost at capacity. If
your child is unable to attend After School Care please let us know
by calling the ASC number or the school office. Some nights we are
refusing bookings as we believe we are full, only to find some
children aren't attending and we haven't been notified. If a child is
booked in and doesn't show we must ascertain that your child has in
fact been collected and we haven't been notified. You will usually be charged if this
occurs as we have refused bookings from other families. This also
inconveniences other parents who are requiring child care. Also
please note, the service closes at 6.00 pm. Late pick ups may be
charged by the minute.

PREP ENROLMENT 2014
Enrolment forms are available from the Office for any
families that have school age children ready for school
next year.

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.

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please note, the service closes at 6.00 pm. Late pick ups may be
charged by the minute.

PUPIL FREE DAY
MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
ALL DAY CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR $35

Please continue to pack EXTRA FOOD for
After School Care. Children are often still
hungry after the snack provided by us -
especially in this cooler weather.

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