Welcome to week 7 of Term 1 for 2015.

Grade 5/6 Camp
Camp was a wonderful success. The students arrived back quite tired on Friday night along with seven very tired staff members. I believe that many students challenged themselves with various physical challenges resulting in many celebrations. A huge thank you to the staff for their hard work and dedication. It is not easy being on call 24 hours a day for three days. But everyone - students and staff members did a wonderful job and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Parents and Friends
The first Parents and Friends meeting for the year including the AGM was held last Friday. I am very pleased to announce the Office Bearers for this year. President is Linda Lee, Secretary is Belinda Seymour and the Treasurer is Anne Block. Congratulations to these 3 members. I look forward to working closely with you along with the other committee members over the coming year.

Global Research Project
Last week I met with Professor Brian Caldwell who is the Managing Director and consultant for the Research project that Specimen Hill is involved with. Brian was excited to be working with Speci on the project. We sat down to talk about Speci’s journey over the past 4 years in particular the reasons behind the school and student improvement. Brian will return to Specimen Hill on Tuesday 17th March as a follow up visit to speak to staff members and two school council members for their ideas and input into the project.

Easter Egg Raffle
Easter Raffle tickets will be arriving home tomorrow to be sold and proceeds going towards our school fundraising. The tickets are 50c each or 3 for $1. All tickets will need to be returned by Monday 23rd March. Please closely monitor all children when they are selling tickets for safety reasons. We are also seeking donations for the contents of the raffle. These could consist of Easter eggs, bunnies, or any chocolate items suitable for Easter baskets. Can these be placed on the table at the front desk please. Thank you for you support.

Busy Week next week.
Next week is a busy week with the Bendigo Advertiser Kooka arriving at school to spend time with the Preps on Monday. On Tuesday we have the visit from Professor Caldwell to speak to staff and school councillors, Thursday afternoon is the Junior School council Investiture starting at 2.15 in the afternoon and followed by afternoon tea. All parents and friends of Junior School Councillors are most welcome to attend. On Friday we are celebrating Harmony Day at school. From 12.00 midday there will be a range of fun and interactive activities for the students to be involved in.

Health and Fitness
Don’t forget to join in with our running laps club every Tuesday morning and come along to join us for Breakfast every Wednesday morning from 8.15am. On Thursday you can ‘jump on board’ the walking school-bus for a fun and enjoyable start to the school day. Eat well, keep fit and healthy.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or by appointment.

Best wishes for the week ahead.
Di Craig, Principal
MIDDLE CLASSES
Reading: Reading daily is extremely important to a child’s development. The more words a child reads, the more words they use in both their written and spoken vocabulary. Can parents please ensure that their children are being listened to at least five nights per week for approximately 20 minutes each night. This term the 3/4 department has organised to run a ‘Home Reading Competition’. Students will be required to return their home reading diaries daily, with teachers counting up how many nights students have read in for their class on a weekly basis. The winning class will receive a trophy for the week, as well as being celebrated at Assembly on Mondays. The class who has read for the most nights for the term will also receive a special celebration in the last week of term.

**The ‘Reading Challenge’ started off extremely well, with all students placing great emphasis on their nightly reading. Unfortunately the reading nights are starting to decrease each week. It is vitally important that students are maintaining a consistent reading routine at home as this has a major impact on their overall reading skills.**

Homework: Each Friday your child will be given homework which is to be completed and returned to school the following Friday. This will give each child seven nights in which to work on the tasks.

Spelling: each child will have five words which they need to practise. They will need to complete the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check for their words. They also need to write each word in a sentence underlining the spelling word in colour. The children are expected to read for at least five nights each week and these are to be recorded in their Reading Diary.

Some children are coming to school on the Friday saying they didn’t have time to do their homework. Given that they have seven nights to work on it and it would take 30 minutes at the most to complete, it would seem that they haven’t organised their time very well. Please ensure your child has ample time to finish this important task. Failure to present finished homework will mean completing it during lunch time program.

Spelling: Once again, our students will receive five weekly spelling words to study and practise. The words will be selected from their writing pieces, ensuring every student has an individual spelling program catered to their needs and vocabulary use. Can parents please ensure students are practising their words each night to help them further develop their writing vocabularies. Partner testing will take place on Fridays and then students will take a new list of words home.

Where is your hat?
Hats: A lot of students are still forgetting to bring their hats to school each day. If hats are being taken home, they need to be placed in school bags each night to ensure that they are not forgotten the next morning. Can students (with parent assistance) please remember to place their name on their hats too? We seem to have a lot of hats without names.

Lunch: Eating a healthy and nutritious lunch each day at school is vital to both the physical and mental development of all students. Students need to be eating all of their lunch, especially the main part of their meal (sandwich, wrap, roll etc.). Can parents please reiterate the importance of this and we will continue to monitor students during eating times.

Integrated Studies: Our Integrated Studies topic this term is ‘I love a sunburnt country’. Over the course of the term students will be learning about our country’s geography and some of the famous landmarks. Students are currently working in pairs to create a visual presentation on the beauty of our country. Students are also using their ICT skills to incorporate Australian themed music as the background to their presentation. We look forward to viewing the finished products in the next week or so.

END OF DAY: Beginning this week preps will be dismissed from the classroom after the bell. You will need to organise a spot outside where your child can meet you following the home time bell. Please ensure your child knows where this spot is.

**READING: CONGRATUALTIONS to the Preps who have reached 25 nights of home reading.** These students will be receiving a certificate for their efforts.

Remember to make a special quiet time to read and share their take home books. Please sign the yellow log book as the preps earn a WOW bead for home reading. Encourage your child to point under the words themselves as they read. You can guide them with your finger. We have been learning about the letters li and Nn and the sounds they make as well as the word ‘go’ this week.

LUNCHES: Great to see the healthy lunches. Please try and keep wrappers to a minimum as we are trying to be a nude food classroom. This means, no wrappers in our school lunch boxes to reduce waste at our school.

Thursday is Nude Food Day where wrappers are counted in each classroom. Also, please be aware that fruit boxes aren’t encouraged, just a bottle of water to sip on throughout the day.

RULE BOOKS: The preps will be bringing home a Rule Book this week to share with their families. Please discuss the rules with your child and sign and return the books to school ASAP. We apologise that these have taken longer than expected.

INTERVIEWS: Families who didn’t have an interview with their teacher please make a time which will suit you and the teacher to discuss your child’s learning and any important information we might need to know about your child.

REMINDERS:
- Small boxes and scraps for our construction box
- A box of tissues from each family to share throughout the year

Community Breakfast

Wednesday
8:15 AM
Harmony Day
Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.
In 2015 we celebrate 15 amazing years of Harmony Day.
Friday 20th of March
beginning at 12:00Noon we will be holding an afternoon of fun filled activities to celebrate this day. We invite you to come along and spend the afternoon involved in some engaging and fun filled activities in the classroom with your children.

Speci Running Club
Let’s Get Running
Come along and join us! Grade 3 - 6 students can participate in the Specimen Hill Running Club with myself (Mr. Broadbent). This is a fantastic way to get healthy and fit especially with the Cross Country event being in early Term Two.
Running Club will be on a Tuesday mornings from 8:00am to 8:30am on the school oval. If students are able to complete 100 laps of the school oval they will receive a $10 gift voucher from Rebel Sports - Bendigo
The running club will go to the end of Term Two.
I would like to thank Sam Bennett for this donation to the running club by Rebel Sports, we really appreciate the support.
Looking forward to seeing you with your running shoes on!

Junior School Council
Investiture
Thursday 19th March
Guest Speaker - Crusoe College Captains
Presentation of Badges & certificates.
Ceremony at 2:15pm
Afternoon tea to follow
Congratulations to the following students on being elected:
Room 3  Olive D.  Isabella L.
Room 4  Brodie A.  Liberty F.
Room 5  Terri F.  Ben C.
Room 6  Maggie F.  Isaac H.
Room 7  Ebony M.  Jordyn A.
Room 8  Deakon M.  Nick C.
Room 9  Brayden T.  Jordy A.
Room 10  Akaisha A.  Kurtis C.
Room 11  Marcus R.  Audrey S.  Ella T.
Room 12  Jacob C.  Hayley C.  Paige F.
Room 13  Jasmine R.  Kobe R.  Sean B.

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Parents & Friends
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2015
Lin Lee - President
Belinda Seymour - Secretary
Anne Block - Treasurer
Welcome to our past & present committee members
You can be involved with Parents’ and Friends’:
As a Financial Member – this means you would attend regular meetings and have voting rights by paying a yearly $1.00 membership fee at the beginning of the year.
As an Associate Member – this means that you can attend regular meetings, however do not have voting rights. Associate Members receive the minutes of the meetings via email and also volunteer when larger events are being

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ICY- POLES FOR SALE
Overseas Learning Experience Fundraiser
Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
at afternoon recess and after school,
the 3 students travelling to China-
Molly, Callum and Emily
will be selling 99% fruit icy poles for 50c (at afternoon recess) and water icy-poles on a stick for $1 (at home-time). This is part of their fundraising effort for their overseas trip.

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SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB NEWS.
Dear Parents,
After students bring home book club pamphlets, can you return orders to office post box asap. Ordering will occur approximately 10 days after the pamphlets go home.
Scholastic take about a week to process them and then orders will be returned to students. Please make sure money is sealed in plastic bag or sealed envelope when returning to the school, or orders can be paid online with your card.
Thankyou for supporting our school and your student with these fabulous reading materials.
Sandy Young

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MOTHERS DAY STALL
FRIDAY 8TH MAY
Volunteers are required for the day of the stall.
Please leave your name and contact number at the office.
DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT THE OFFICE.
Purchased or handmade gifts: chocolates, coffee sachets, frames, plants, pin cushions, aprons, hand towels are suggestions
Items for the stall will be priced from 50cents to $5.00

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EASTER RAFFLE
★Lots and lots of prizes to win ★
Raffle tickets will be sent home this week
PLEASE PLACE DONATIONS AT THE OFFICE
Raffle prizes will be drawn at a special assembly on Thursday
26th @ 2:45pm
COME JOIN THE FUN !
On the 4th 5th and 6th of March the 5/6 department of Specimen Hill PS woke up early to get onto the bus to head to their destination of Baanya Biami Adventure Camp.

We arrived at Baanya Biami about 3 hours later from Specimen Hill and got organised and found out who was in our cabins. After we had had our day 1 activities such as the Flying Fox, Map Reading, Hut Building and Giant Slide, we also had a Trivia Night.

The 2nd Day our activities were Archery, Trust and Initiative and Low Ropes. In Abseiling, most people thought the hardest part was leaning back off the ledge. At the end of the 2nd day it was time for Speci’s Got Talent and the winners were the Bunnies (Sean, Trasiah, Cody, Callum and Kaleb). They danced to “Let It Go” from Frozen.

On the 3rd day our time was nearly over but we had 1 more activity to complete in each group. When we were about to leave the teachers came and made sure everything was out of the cabins and then it was time to hop onto the bus and say goodbye to Baanya Biami.

Overall, the camp Baanya Biami was a great experience the food was delicious and everyone just had a really great time. I bet that everyone would want to come back to this camp again in the future!!!

Thankyou to Miss Eastley, Michael, Mr Pysing, Mrs Jackson, Mr Tanner, Mr Broadbent an Miss Williams for helping us have a great camp.

By Sean and Jazy
Our children’s future in the very best of hands..............
I am a star because I am good at lego and making stuff. Asher.

I am a good friend and I let my friends play with me. I am good at the monkey bars. Dallan.

I am a star because I am a kind and caring friend and I am a good learner. Freya

I am a star because I am good at video games and also I am good at riding my bike. I am good at Pokemon cards because I have the powerful Pokemon. Caleb.

I am a star because I am fit and healthy and I know how to defend myself. I am a good friend. I am smart. I can read really big chapter books. I can ride a two wheeler bike. I am kind and generous. I am there for you. Alectra

I am kind and good at Plants Vs Zombies garden warfare. I am also good at riding my bike. Baidyn

I am a star because I am a good friend and I am a good swimmer. I am kind and I am friendly. I am here for you. Lexie

I am a star because I build lego sets. Xavier.

I am a star because I can ride a bike with a motor on it. Kingston

I am a star because I let my friends play with me. I have lots of friends. Kaire

I am a star because I am a good friend to others. I am also a star because I listen to the teacher and I am a good writer. Mackenzie P.

I am a star because I am a good friend. I am a star because I help my friends. I am a star because I listen to the teacher. Nicola

I am a super star because I let my friends play the play station. Mikey

I am a star because I am friendly and when I make stuff. Mia

I am a star because I'm a good writer and I am a good friend and I am good at video games. I am a good friend because I let other people join in my games. Ryan

I am good at video games and racing games. Noah

I am a star because I am a good friend and a good writer and I am good at learning and reading. Mackenzie C.

I am a star because I am nice to others. I am happy when I play with others. I am kind and have heaps of friends. I love my family so much. I love my friends. Gemma

I am a star because I am making friends and I am a good friend. I am a good writer and a good reader. I'm nice and fun to play with. I am a good rider. I am also good at cycling because I am in H level in cycling. I am great at drawing and good at swimming and running. Maggie.

I am a star because I am excellent at Tai Kwondo. I can share with my friends. I can write and I can read. I can even draw. I am even as tar because I know how to swim. Tahlia

I am a star because I have done the ice-bucket challenge and because I am a good friend. Isaac
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13th Mar</td>
<td>National Ride 2 School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th Mar</td>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY BREAKFAST</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join us in the outdoor area for eggs on toast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 19th Mar</td>
<td>Junior School Council Investiture @ 2:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th Mar</td>
<td><strong>HARMONY DAY</strong></td>
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<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>PREPS REST DAY !!!</td>
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<td>Thurs 26th Mar</td>
<td><strong>DISCO NIGHT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th Mar</td>
<td>Last Day of Term&lt;br&gt;1:45pm Dismissal</td>
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