Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

NAPLAN
This week has been a big week with students in Years 3 & 5 currently sitting the NAPLAN tests. Thank you to the teachers for all the hard work they have put in to preparing the students for the tests. I am pleased that students approached the tests in a mature manner keen to do their best on the day.

Mother’s Day Stall
A big thank you to our Parents and Friends group who ran the Mother’s Day Stall.. The children looked very pleased with their Mother’s Day gifts and hopefully you enjoyed your special day on Sunday. Thank you to all who donated the wonderful quality gifts to the stall.

Uniform
There are a number of girls wearing animal head bands. These are not part of the school uniform. Could parents please support us with making sure that students do not come to school wearing these headbands. The teachers will be asking students to take them off and put them in their bag. Please keep them for after school wear and weekends.

Winter has hit in a hurry. Please ensure students jumpers are named as this is the time of the year when many go missing. A name on the tag is a sure way of ensuring that the jumper is returned in a timely manner.

Education Week
Please take the opportunity to come and visit the school on Tuesday the 19th of May. Grandparents and friends are also welcome. The classrooms will be available to visit between 9.00-11.00 am. Students will be involved in their normal classroom program between 9.00-10.00. After this, students will be involved in Science activities to 11.00 am. We are proud of our school and encourage you to visit. Morning tea will be provided by our Parents & Friends.

Wednesday 20th of May
All welcome to come to a community breakfast from 8.00 am. On this day students in Year 3 & 4 will be travelling to the Werribee Zoo. Payment is due by this coming Friday. Please pay promptly to ensure your child is able to be included in the excursion.

PREP ENROLMENTS 2016
We will be running a Prep information evening from 6.00 pm. Included in this newsletter is a Prep flyer. If you know of children living near you, who are due to begin school next year, could you drop the flyer into their letter box please.
Thank you for your ongoing support,
Wendy Jackson  (Acting Principal)
Greetings all. Gym concludes this Friday for senior students. Students have really enjoyed the challenge and new experience. Feedback is very positive. NAPLAN week is seeing Grade 5 students applying their best efforts to the process. Grade 6 students have also been busy completing some assessments of their own. In particular in Writing and Numeracy. Last week, Grade 6 students and their families where given an opportunity to attend an information evening at their prospective secondary school for 2016. Students have been speaking very positively and enthusiastically about the information they received from the evening. Our Integrated topic of “We are Global Citizens” is ramping up. Families are asked to supply their classes with any recyclable items such as, cardboard boxes, cartons, string etc. Anything that may be used to build models of displays relating to the topic. Our 3 Speci students and Miss Eastley head off to China at the end of this month. You can keep in tune with their international experience by logging into this Blog: http://specihillpste.global2.vic.edu.au/ and post comments (appropriate ones) along the way. Now, the first person that tells Mr Pysing 3 different “Tier 2” words will win a Chocolate Frog! Rebecca, Sophie, Scott and Adam

MIDDLE CLASSES
Tissues - Thank you to all those who have donated some tissues to their classroom. Please send a box in with your child to help us all out during the winter months.

Gym Program - This week is our final day of gym, it will be on Friday due to NAPLAN testing on Thursday. This program has been a wonderful asset to our PE program with the students learning and challenging themselves with new skills.

Werribee Zoo Excursion - Next Wednesday is our day at Werribee Zoo. We are very excited to be enjoying this fabulous learning experience to enhance our studies of endangered animals. If you have not returned your form or spoken to your teacher please do so ASAP!

Home 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 for in 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.

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. 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.

Meals - Tomorrow is the last morning of breakfast for the NAPLAN, with many students enjoying a meal with their friends. 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 re-iterate the importance of this and we will continue to monitor students during eating times. DON’T FORGET NUDE FOOD!

Integrated Studies
Our Integrated Studies topic this term is ‘Going, Going, Gone. Over the course of the term students will be learning about endangered animals both across the world and locally. This will include our excursion to the Werribee Zoo and the creation of posters.

Please don’t hesitate making contact with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.
Julian Regan, Kim Manley & Hayden Polglase

JUNIOR CLASS
Reading at home - It is expected that students are reading at home at least 5 nights a week. Their yellow diaries need to be filled out by an adult each time so that they can be signed off by the classroom teacher.

Spelling - Students should by now be bringing home an orange spelling book with 5 spelling words each week. It is a requirement that they practice these words at home before the due day set by their classroom teacher.

Tissues - Well it’s that time again where runny noses and colds are running amuck in our classrooms. Just a reminder if you are able to donate a box of tissues to the school office, it would be greatly appreciated.

Warm Clothing - With the cooler weather definitely making itself known, students should be wearing appropriate, warm clothing.

Toys at school - Toys are NOT permitted to be brought to school to play with. The only time students should be bringing these items from home is on their ‘share in the chair’ day. Otherwise, please ensure students leave their valuables at home.

Natalie Stacey, Brad, Jacqui, Jo and Kylie.

PREP NEWS
This week our focus has been on the sounds Dd and Ee. We had fun thinking about all the things that start with these letters. Our word of the week is ‘see’. It would be great if you could keep your eye out for this in your reading. Please continue to maintain your home reading routine. We are seeing some wonderful and exciting progress with those students who do read every night. A reminder to keep practising the words on the blue card and the ants on the apple song, which should both be in your child’s reader bag. If they are not, please see your classroom teacher to organise another copy.

We are starting to finish up with our Fantasy Theme and will be moving into our new topic ‘Healthy Food’ next week. During this unit we will be looking at what healthy foods are, encouraging students to try new foods, planting our own vegetables, cooking and making a recipe book to take home.

Please remind your child about the ‘hands off’ rule at school. Students should not be tackling or playing rough games in the yard. A discussion around this at home would be appreciated.

We are still missing some communication books. If you have not returned yours please do this ASAP.

We will be hosting a Prep Information Evening next Thursday the 21st of May for all prospective 2016 Prep’s. If you know of anyone with a child due to start Prep next year, please let them know as we would love to meet them. Please find flyer attached to the newsletter.

Emily & Joan

OPEN DAY   TUES 19TH MAY
9.00am—11.30am
The school open day is an opportunity for future families to inspect the school and view our fabulous facilities.
We are acknowledging students with awards, to those who display and follow our school values.

VALUE OF THE MONTH: PERSISTENCE
Students who displayed this value in an outstanding manner last week:
Cody N., Zimia L., Charlotte P., Charlotte K., Paw, Samantha E., Harry W., Adam G., Oscar M., Corey M., Tiesha M.

NEWS FLASH
The new Art Blog has been loaded onto the Specimen Hill Primary School APP. Examples of student artwork will be available to view at your convenience. Share with the extended family the fabulous talent of students from the school.
To read an article - tap on the picture and scroll down for more images.
Sandy

PARENTS & FRIENDS MEETING
9:00AM FRIDAY 22ND MAY

NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH - MAY
Get involved in the Read More in May Challenge! – OPEN 1 MAY –

Werribee Zoo Notes
Payment via QKR
Preferred Payment Method

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

Last Wednesday, we went to the first pre departure day for our China Trip. We went with Miss Eastley and met the other Team China Students at Golden Square Primary School. Some of the activities were: China quiz, Team China Song, team building games and investigating areas in China. Callum was able to meet Kurt, who he will be sharing a room with on the trip.

We watched a video about bargaining and we saw the view from the top of the Pearl Tower.

We also did an activity here we had to write a new verse to add to the Team China song.

The quiz was informative. We learnt that most toilets are squat toilets. We also learnt that 8 and 9 are very lucky numbers and that 4 can sometimes mean death.

We are getting very excited for our next pre departure activity day and even more excited for our trip!!

Callum, Molly and Emily.

Team China Blog available on School Information app

Are you doing The Premiers' Reading Challenge?

Good Luck to all those who will begin this week!

If you would like to take part please see Mrs Pelly or Mrs Manley to collect a form to take home.

Parents are reminded that the $100 per student is now due. Please make payment at the school office or via the QKR payment app.

Family statements will be sent home this week.

Parents & Friends

FRIDAY 22ND MAY
9:00AM
Staff Room

Thank you to all the families who donated gifts to the Mother’s Day Stall. The children had a fantastic time selecting gifts for their Mums. This stall is a terrific fundraiser for the school, we appreciate the quality of donations we received.

Our children’s future in the very best of hands..............
In the Grade 1/2 department we have been learning about Aboriginal Australians. Here are some of the dot paintings completed in class.
# OPEN DAY
**TUES 19TH MAY**
**9.00am—11.30am**

The school open day is an opportunity for future families to inspect the school and view our fabulous facilities.

If you know of any children who are due to enrol at primary school next year, please encourage the family to come along and have a guided tour of the school & discuss our curriculum.

All visitors should present to the school office to be included in tours, conducted by Junior School Council members.

**INFORMATION EVENING**
**Preps 2016**
**THURS 21ST MAY 6:00PM**

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
Some days are full!

Please phone the correct phone number for bookings
- ASC Phone : 0447 788 636
- BSC Phone : 0438 062 561

WEDNESDAY : MILO & COOKIES / MUSIC
THURSDAY : HOT DOGS / TILE ART
FRIDAY : CHIPS / MOVIE NIGHT

**NEW PREPS 2016**

**Messy Action for Kids and Parents**
- Multiple messy activities
- Parents can join in or enjoy a cuppa
- Brief quiet time together prior to meal
- Communal meal provided
- Positive, caring place for all ages

Bring a parent - gold coin donation.
This Friday 5pm to 6.30pm
Uniting Church Chum St cnr Maple Golden Square

**Simply Messy! Simply Fun!**