Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Well, winter is certainly upon us. We have noticed an increase in absenteeism as the semester has progressed. Of course students who are ill need to stay away, but every student needs to attend every day that they possibly can. It does make a difference to their education.

Reports/interviews
A reminder that reports will be sent home this Friday. Please take the time to share your child’s report with them and celebrate their achievements. It is important to be positive around their achievements and remember that all students are different and achieve at different rates. Parent teacher interviews will be held next Wednesday between 12.00 am and 7.00pm. Students are expected to attend with their parents on this day. You can book online, or if you do not have access to a computer, please come into the office and we can do it for you.

Last Week Events
On Monday at 2.15 our final assembly will be held. At this, we will hand out achievement awards for A Fantastic Term and Improvement awards. All welcome to attend. Students who travelled to China will present around their trip on Friday morning at 9.10 am. This will be a whole school assembly.

Photo Day
School photos will happen on Thursday 25th June. Please return your photo envelopes to the office prior to the day. You may process your orders online as directed on the envelope, or enclose cash. No change will be given on the day of photos.

Sports Day
Our 5/6 classes will be involved in a sports day with Golden Square on Thursday of this week. Students will walk to the school and play games of footy, netball. It is important that they are dressed warmly. This has been organised as part of a transition to high school and as a way of students getting to know other people from different schools. This event is covered under the local excursion note.

School Fees
These need to be paid by Thursday week. For each child enrolled $100 is charged – This buys books and pencils for student use. There is also a $50 ICT fee which covers costs of iPads, computers & printing. For those families that have paid the fees by Thursday the 25th of June, you will be entered into a raffle which will be drawn on the last Friday of the term. The prize is a canteen voucher of $100 dollars. I encourage all families to pay their fees. Many schools ask families to actually buy student’s materials and books up front at the beginning of the year. We prefer to purchase the materials as a whole school so that all students start with exactly the same on the first day of school.

Wendy Jackson (Acting Principal)
**SENIOR CLASSES**

Greetings all. In Literacy, our focus is Book Reports and Letter Writing. In Numeracy, we’re focusing on addition and subtraction of fractions. Our Integrated topic of “We are Global Citizens” is coming to a close. Students are enjoying getting involved in the “Take Action” stage and realising what it actually means to be an active Global Citizen.

Don’t forget tomorrow, **Thursday the 18th of June**. It will be a great and active day for our senior students. We will play Golden Square Primary in a sports day at Wade St Golden Square, all welcome; Girls’ Football, Boys’ Football, Girls’ Netball and Boys’ Netball.

Families are encouraged to visit the online Speci App and check out the blog for the Speci Art Show. You’ll see some great stuff there!

Not long now till holidays. Hang in there. The first person to tell Mr Pysing the margin between 365.63 and 243.23 will win a chocolate frog.

Regards, Bec, Sophie, Adam and Scott.

**MIDDLE CLASSES**

**School day arrivals** Please ensure that your child is arriving at school early to be ready for learning at 9am. Students like to spend some time with their friends before they start their school day.

**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. 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.

**Meals** - 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 on Thursdays!

**Integrated Studies**

**ADOPTING A BANDICOOT**

At our visit to the Werribee Zoo we were given a classroom challenge to raise $15 by collecting 5 cent coins to help feed an endangered Bandicoot for a month. We have not only engaged in this activity but as a group have decided to try and raise a donation to adopt a Bandicoot also.

Next week we are beginning to work on our endangered species posters. We will be researching, creating and presenting these to our classmates.

Please don’t hesitate making contact with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.

3/4 Department – Julian Regan, Kim Manley & Hayden Polglase

**JUNIOR CLASS**

We’ve nearly reached the halfway point of the school year! Just a reminder that while we are nearing the end of Term 2, it is still expected that students maintain their home reading **at least** five nights a week.

In Literacy this week, we have begun our new text type of Information Reports. Students have been writing about themselves and their favourite things using this format, as well as reading a variety of texts of this type during shared and guided reading time.

In Numeracy, we have been looking at money. Students are learning to identify coins as well as their value, what makes up a dollar, as well as investigating open-ended questions. We have been greatly enjoying this topic.

If there are any communication journals still floating around home, could parents please send these back with their child/ren as soon as possible as teachers need to begin adding Term 2’s work to them.

Natalie, Stacey, Brad, Jacqui, Jo and Kylie.

**PREP NEWS**

Welcome to Week 10! It is crazy how fast the term has gone. Only one more week left until holidays – hooray!

As always, the end of term is busy with many things happening. However, we are still making time for independent reading every morning. During this time we are working on sounding out unfamiliar words, recognising commonly used words, using the pictures to help us and making connections with books we are reading. This week we are learning about words with the ‘th’ sound. Our word of the week is ‘we’ and we are also discussing what the word ‘nutrition’ means. We are revising all the teen numbers and learning more about location in Numeracy.

As we near the end of term please remember:

- Your child will be sent home with their report on Friday. Please share this with your child and celebrate their achievements from their first semester at school!
- Next Wednesday 24th is Pupil Free Day as Parent Teacher Interviews will be held. If you have not made an appointment yet, please do so as it is a wonderful opportunity to discuss your child’s progress.
- School photos are next week - return your envelope 📅
- Please continue to read with your child, many students are reaching 100 nights of home reading which is a fantastic achievement!

Emily and Joan

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**Reports go home Friday**

**Wednesday 24th June**

Please make your booking online

[Event Code: V87GV]

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Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
We hope that students are continuing to read their books with Parent encouragement! If you would like to take part please see Mrs Pelly or Mrs Manley to collect a form to participate.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities the benefit of your child.

This Fund CANNOT be used for OSHC, Uniforms or School Fees.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be: $125 for primary school students

How to Apply: Complete the form included in last week’s newsletter or contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Closing Date : You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

Tuesday Cooking Group

This week we made savoury muffins.

Savoury Muffins

Ingredients:
1) cheese
2) spinach
3) carrot
4) parsley
5) garlic
6) flour
7) eggs
8) zucchini
9) milk

Crack the eggs, grate the vegetables and mix it altogether. Spoon it into muffin pans and cook. Oven set at 190

ART NEWS

Visit our new school Art Blog.

Click on the Speci School App. (If you haven’t already downloaded this App – Search “specimen hill primary school” on the App store for iPhone or on Google Play for Android Phones)

Grade 1/2 Monkey puppets and Grade 5/6 Sewing Soft Toys have been uploaded for you to view.

Sandy Young

SCHOOL FEES

$100 PER STUDENT

Parents are reminded that the $100 per student is now due. This is a compulsory fee for all families.

If paid by end of term, you go into the draw for a $100 Canteen voucher.

Payment at the school office or via the QKR payment app, or Direct Credit.

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

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday 8:00am Running Club

Wed 8:15am Breakfast Program

Thurs Walking School Bus

Fri 19th Jun Parents & Friends Meeting 9:00AM STAFFROOM

Wed 24th Jun Parent Teacher Interviews PUPIL FREE DAY

Thur 25th June SCHOOL PHOTO DAY family Photo envelopes from Office

Fri 26th June LAST DAY OF TERM 2

SCHOOL BEANIES
HAND MADE BY PARENTS & FRIENDS
$5 EACH

Specimen Hill Primary School
Building a Healthier Community Program.
The program is designed to provide local organisations with a recurring source of fundraising income. It is based on revenue from your organisation supporting UFS Pharmacies.

How does it work?
UFS Pharmacies will donate 10% of the retail value of any sale and remitted in full to your organisation. Each year a specific campaign is launched based on the number of members who sign up or renew their membership with UFS Pharmacies and nominate your organisation.

How do I participate?
1. Become a member of UFS Pharmacies.
2. Nominate Specimen Hill Primary School as your organisation.
3. Encourage friends and family to do the same.
4. Set back and watch the sponsorship cheques come in.

SCHOOL VALUES: Resilience, Excellence, Persistence, Honesty & Respect

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS
PLEASE RETURN

SEND YOUR RECIPE NOW!

Introducing THE SPECI COOKBOOK!!
The parents and friends committee is producing a cookbook as a major fundraiser this year.
Filled with recipes, cooking hints and nutrition info.

Featuring:
- lots of photos of the school community
- submissions from our school families, friends & staff
- advertising/sponsorship opportunities
- student artwork

Please send us your favourite recipes, cooking tips and lunchbox ideas to SpecimenHillCookbook@gmail.com or leave them in the box at the office.

Beautiful, professionally printed cookbooks will be available in term 4.
Order forms will be sent out later in the year.