Welcome to week 4 of Term 1 for 2015.

Guitar at Speci - Today will be the start of the Learn How To Play the Guitar program at Speci. We were overwhelmed with the number of students who have shown an interest in learning to play the guitar but unfortunately we had to limit the list to only 20 students. This is disappointing but there may be opportunities at second semester or later in the year for other students to participate. The strict criteria for the program is that the students participating have access to a guitar and that they practise regularly throughout the week bringing their guitar along each Wednesday. I am looking forward to listening to the first performance of our guitar players. In Term 2 we will also be giving students the opportunity to learn the recorder as a second instrumental program.

Meet and Greet Interviews - Family Meet and Greet teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 26th February. These are an opportunity to share any concerns or relevant family or student information with the class teacher. The teacher will also share a hand out of the requirements and expectations of each student for the year. We expect to see all parents attending on the day.

Family occupations - The school is currently updating family information which is a school requirement. To assist with this every parent will be required to fill out a quick form in relation to the family occupation. This will be handed to you at the start of the Meet and Greet meetings to be completed before leaving. One form only per family is needed.

Pupil Free Day-Fri 27th Feb - The day following the Interviews-Friday 27th Feb is a pupil free day. On this day the staff will be completing their compliance for CPR, asthma and anaphylaxis training. The OHSC program will operate from 8:00am till 6pm. Bookings are essential.

Team China - 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.

School Uniform - All students must arrive to school in full school uniform each day, if not a note from the parent is required to be handed to the class teacher. New uniforms can be purchased from the school uniform shop or a supply of pre-loved uniforms for free is kept at school. (Only certain sizes available). All jewellery is banned apart from a watch or sleeper or stud earrings. Nail-polish, make-up and fancy hand-bands are also not to be worn to school and your child may be asked to remove it at school. Please take the time to make sure that your child/ren are in full uniform each day. Thank you for your support on this matter.

Prep Rest Days - The following dates are the final Prep rest days for the term. Today-18th Feb, 25th Feb, 11th March and 25th March. I have noticed how tired the children are by Wednesday and Fridays. The Wednesday rest days have been beneficial in enabling the students to progress in their learning and to remain focussed throughout the week.

Good Parenting - Many of our students at school share their time between two family households. In most cases the rules and expectations can be quite different in each household. Initially this can be confusing for children. Here are some hints that will be helpful in this situation:

- Parents in both households should take the time to clearly share the expectations for their own household with the child,
- show consistency in enforcing the rules such as bed-times, behaviour, meals etc as this enables the children to clearly understand the boundaries and expectations.
- when boundaries are not clarified appropriately the children often misbehave as they are confused as to their role and expectations in the household.
- be mindful not to criticise the rules of the other parent’s house but support your child in the reasons for why certain rules operate the way that they do in your home.
- Don’t talk about ‘adult’ matters or grievances in front of the children.
- co-parenting in a positive, calm, supportive and active manner will have the best outcome for the child.
- Children often get worried over real or perceived illnesses of a parent, they worry that any illness may be terminal. If you have an illness please put it in perspective when speaking to children.

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
SENIOR CLASSES
Our Grade 5/6 camp is in exactly two weeks!! How time flies!! Information packs were sent home on Monday. The information note needs to be kept in a safe place at home and the yellow notes need to be returned to Miss Eastley as soon as possible. Final payments and all camp notes are to be returned to school by this Friday at the latest.

There are a few Grade 6 Netbooks that have not been collected this year. Please ensure that you pay the final amount as soon as possible in order to collect the Netbooks. The students will have many opportunities to use these in class.

Rotations and Chinese began last week. Students seemed to thoroughly enjoy these and are looking forward to seeing what’s to come in these subjects.

Please support your child to complete all homework tasks. The expectation is that senior students complete 30 minutes of reading each night and their weekly spelling and numeracy homework.

Remember to book in a time for meet and greet interviews next week. Information regarding this was sent home on Monday.

Rebecca, Sophie, Scott and Adam

MIDDLE CLASSES
Meet and Greet
Students received a Meet and Greet Interview sheet on Monday afternoon. Our school’s Meet and Greet Interviews will take place on Thursday 26th February between 2:00pm – 7:00pm. In order to book a time for these interviews, parents need to log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the school event code (G3RRV). This will allow them to book a suitable time. It would be great to meet with all parents to discuss the education of your child.

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.

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.

Hats - As part of our school policy, students are required to wear wide brim hats during term one and four of the school year. If students do not have hats on while outside at break times they will unfortunately be asked to play indoors or undercover.

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.

We look forward to maintaining a close relationship between home and school during the school year.

Julian Regan, Kim Manley & Hayden Polglase

JUNIOR CLASS
Welcome to the 1/2 news for week 4. We have been very busy in the 1/2 classrooms, everyone has had an enjoyable and very settled start to the school year. We thank all parents for their continued support in our home reading and spelling programs. The students have been continuing to learn and complete activities about themselves.

A few reminders for everyone:

- Monday and Friday are lunch order days - Order via Qkr
- Nude Food is every Thursday (no wrappers)
- Home Reading needs to be completed every night
- Hats must be worn outside during Term 1
- Rule books need to be returned ASAP

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

PREP CLASS
This week in Prep we have been working hard on our reading and writing skills. We have learnt about the number 3, shapes and patterns.

On Tuesday we made pancakes... they were delicious! We have been working hard on letting our Mum’s and Dad’s go in the morning without getting upset. Thank you to those parents who are cooperating and leaving ASAP. The longer you stay in the classroom the harder it becomes for your child to settle. If you haven’t already, please pop in and have a look at your child’s Rainbow Fish which is on display in the classroom.

SCHOOL NURSE: The school nurse has been visiting this week. If you have not yet returned your white envelope for the school nurse

REMINDER: Please return the Prep School Nurse forms ASAP.

READING: Lots of Preps have made a fantastic start to their home reading. 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 words ‘I’ and ‘can’.

LUNCHES: We have noticed that our Preps are coming to school with a good healthy lunch box. 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.

REMINDER: If you wish to bring something special in to share, such as a pet, please see your classroom teacher to organise an appropriate time to avoid unexpected interruptions. This would be greatly appreciated. Students will begin ‘Share in the chair’ in the next few weeks; more information about this will come home soon.

Thanks for your support.

Emily & Joan

Library bags are for sale from Mrs. Young $2.00

Parents & Friends
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 6th March @ 2.30 pm
STAFF ROOM @ SCHOOL
All positions will be declared vacant.

To cast a vote you need to be a financial member, this will cost the grand sum of $1.00

Volunteering to assist with school fundraising is a great way to be involved and contributing to the school community. No high pressure, lots of laughter and friendship.
Access School calendar, Newsletters, Push notifications, Excursion advice

SCHOOL INTERVIEW BOOKINGS
ADVISE ABSENCES VIA THE APP
Emails are sent directly to the class teacher when you advise student absence via this app.
Just search the app store for Specimen Hill Primary

QKR is the preferred method of receiving payments for school items at Specimen Hill Primary school. Please download the app and have it all ready to run for Canteen orders, school uniform and school excursions.

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.............
This week in our cooking club we made yummy Chunky Chips. We dug the potatoes out of our school garden, peeled them and cut them up. We then baked the potatoes in the oven.

My potato was as long as a hot dog. I thought it was excellent fun. Asher

Today at cooking club we made Potato chunks. I dug up a potato shaped like a witches nose. I felt joyful to be playing with the dirt. Mikayla

Today I dug potatoes up with a shovel. The potatoes were dirty. I was happy. Deakon

Today I did gardening and cooking. We cooked potato chips. We get to eat them. We got our hands dirty. I felt great. Hope

This week at After School Care we made some yummy dips. We made Gherkin Dip, Beetroot Dip and Capsicum Dip. We have also had some craft with shaving cream printing and we made some yummy salad wraps. Please remember to pack your child an extra snack if they are attending After School Care as children are often still hungry after the snack provided. Please also note, the service operates from 3.15 - 6.00. Late picks may incur extra charges.

Bookings are filling fast - at this stage Fridays are fully booked and Thursday is close to being fully booked.

If your child is unable to attend please let us know as soon as you can so someone else in need may be able to fill your spot.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
2014 | EVENTS CALENDAR
---|---
**Thurs 26th Feb** | Meet & Greet Interviews 2pm – 7pm BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE ONLINE
**Fri 27th Feb** | Pupil Free Day
**4–6th March** | Grade 5/6 Camp
**Fri 6th Mar** | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PARENTS & FRIENDS
**Mon 9th Mar** | PUBLIC HOLIDAY
**Fri 20th Mar** | HARMONY DAY
**Fri 27th Mar** | Last Day of Term 1

### Hockey Come and Try Day
All people, young and young at heart are welcome to come and try the fantastic sport of hockey! Come down to the hockey fields in Ashley St, Ironbark.

**Sunday 1st March**
10:00am till 12 Noon
It’s an all ages day with no experience required, ran by Spec’s very own Michael Lawlor.
No equipment is required on the day and a free BBQ will be provided afterwards.

The school relies on a number of Volunteers to assist with various programs throughout the year. Please consider coming along to assist and contribute towards the school community.

**CAIEN IS IN NEED OF NEW FACES.**

Name:.........................................................................................................
Contact No................................................................................................

☐ Canteen duty (only required for the morning)
  Mon    Fri (circle which day suits)
☐ Head Lice Check Program
☐ Parents & Friends Fundraising / Welfare cooking
  Please return to the school office

### Junior Netball Teams
Students who expressed interest in playing junior netball this coming season, need to return their forms.
The teams will be co-ordinated by school community member Lauren Kleinitz.
These forms need to be returned as soon as possible to the school, in time to meet registration deadlines.

### 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
- Pot luck, 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!