Welcome to week 8 of Term 1 for 2015.

Global Research Project

Professor Brian Caldwell came to school yesterday for his second visit to interview a number of staff members, school council members and Bernadette. He had looked through the school data from the past 4 years and acknowledged the steady improvement in student achievement over this time. His task for the research project is to find out what has been the reasons or the story around the success. By interviewing a range of people he was able to find out the detail and practice to enable him to create a narrative around the 4 year journey. Professor Caldwell is planning to have the final report completed by April and then it will be shared with the reports from the other 3 Australian schools. Then he will meet all of his international counterparts in Finland later in the year to put the many narratives together which will provide the information for the final research paper. How exciting for Specimen Hill to be part of a global research project recognising its success. This is reason for celebration and the school and community should be extremely proud of this achievement.

Easter Egg Raffle

The Easter Egg raffle tickets are being returned to school at a steady pace. Thank you to all families who have already returned their tickets and others who have almost completed selling their books. The donations of Easter eggs, bunnies and baskets for the prizes are flowing in. Thank you families for your generosity.

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices can be very invasive in the lives of all family members but especially children. Many of the programs that children are accessing can be high action or sometimes violent. Please set firm rules around the programs that your children can access and for what period of time they can be on the device each day. Minimise the time, especially around bed time. Children should be in bed ready to sleep no later than 8.30pm, much earlier for younger children. 1.5 hours of electronic device time per day is more than enough for primary school students. Take the time to set a weekly timetable around the use and work hard to stick to it.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day will be celebrated this Friday. Throughout the afternoon the children will be involved in a range of activities that encourage and deepen their understanding around diversity, acceptance, getting along and being a more active and accepting citizen. It promises to be a fun-filled day.

School Council

The first School Council meeting for 2015 will be held next Monday night starting at 7pm. I look forward to thanking our previous council members and welcoming all new members on the night.

Junior School Council Investiture - NEW DATE

The Junior School Council Investiture has been re-scheduled to Tuesday 24th March at 2.15 pm. Sorry for any inconvenience. All family and friends most welcome to attend.

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
Wow! Can you believe that the end of Term 1 is almost upon us? It has been a busy and productive term! Students have been establishing what it means to be a responsible citizen, as well as investigating what a digital footprint is and how we can ensure that we leave behind a digital footprint that we are proud of.

Homework: Please continue to support your child to complete their homework tasks. Students should be reading at home every night and completing other homework (Spelling, Numeracy, Wellbeing, Vocabulary) on a weekly basis. Students are expected to hand this in every Thursday and will be expected to complete it during lunchtime if it is incomplete.

Technology and Internet: It is important to have boundaries and expectations at home regarding technology and internet use. Ensure that you have a discussion with your children about this and set up time limits for their use.

Easter raffle: We would like to see each family donate an item to our Easter raffle. Items can be left on the table in the office.

Student Diaries: All students have a Speci Student Diary. They are given some time at school to fill it out to assist in their organisation. Please encourage the use of these diaries at home. E.g. filling in important dates, after school commitments, due dates for homework etc. Students should be taking these home every day and returning them to school every day.

Rebecca, Sophie, Scott and Adam

MIDDLE CLASSES
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.

**The ‘Reading Challenge’ - 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.

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 re-iterate 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.

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

Julian Regan, Kim Manley & Hayden Polglase

JUNIOR CLASS
We are in week 8 of term already! Many children have reached 25 reading nights and some are very close to 50 already. Keep up the great effort!! Please keep up with your reading and spelling at home and remember that you can use Reading Eggs at home – ask your classroom teacher for the codes if you haven’t got the parent letter.

Last week we had a visit from a Bike Ed group. It was very interesting to learn some more about bike safety.

Please ensure any jumpers and jackets are clearly labelled with your child’s name. If you lose any items be sure to check the Art Room for lost property. Drink bottles should still be coming to school each day with fresh water. Thank you for your ongoing support,

Natalie Stacey, Brad, Jacqui, Jo and Kylie.

PREP CLASS
Kooka: On Monday we had a very special visitor come into the Prep room. Kooka from the Bendigo Advertiser dropped by to see us. We had lots of fun drawing pictures of Kooka, having our photos taken and giving Kooka lots of big cuddles. We will be featured in the Bendigo Advertiser this Thursday. Make sure you check out ‘Kids Corner’ for some of Prep H’s writing about Kooka’s visit.

Home Reading Our Preps are doing some wonderful home reading; please continue to do this with your child as it is very important to improve your child’s learning. This week we are learning about the word ‘like’ and the letters Bb and Oo. Your child should now be familiar with the words the, can, to, I and go.

Construction We are getting a great little collection of construction items, thank you to those parents who are dropping these off. We love creating wonderful things to take home.

Dismissal Please remember that students are being dismissed from the classroom at the end of the day and you need to make a special spot to meet your child.

Share in the Chair is starting next Monday. If your child has something small that they would like to share with the class, they are welcome to bring it to school with them. Please remind your child that these items are not to go outside. If it is something precious it might be best to keep it in your classroom teacher’s office throughout the day.

Reading Eggs Your child has been registered with ABC Reading Eggs. This is an online program designed to motivate and excite your child about reading. Your child will be given a login and password that they can use at home. Students will begin accessing Reading Eggs at school next Term, however you may like to start exploring this at home with your child. Their login and password will be stuck inside their yellow reading log for easy access.

Please remember that it is the FINAL PREP REST DAY NEXT WEDNESDAY THE 25TH OF March!!! There are no rest days next term.

Emily & Joan
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.

Junior School Council Investiture
New Date!
Tuesday 24th 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 G.
Room 13 Jasmine R. Kobe R. Sean B.

CRAZY DISCO
When: 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Thursday 26th March
Where: Golden Hills Motel
Marong Rd
Who: Current Students Only
(No older or younger family members)
Bring: Plate of supper to share
Cost: $4.50 or $5.00 at the door.
Tickets: On sale in the office between 8:45 and 9am from Wednesday March 18th
Rules:
1. Children must be walked to, and collected from the venue. No admittance before 6:30pm
2. No adults, pre-schoolers, or older children will be admitted.
3. Children will be supervised by teachers at all times
4. No children will be permitted to leave the venue during the disco unless collected by their parent.
5. Children going home with another family will require a permission note from their parent.

STARS OF THE WEEK
16 March 2015

Room 1 Lucas H. Olivia R.
Room 2 Ashton Mc
Room 3 Daria F.
Room 4 Ty S.
Room 5 Caleb J. Kyri K.
Room 6 Jordyn A.
Room 7 Blake D. Chloe W.
Room 10 Corey B.
Room 11 Riley D.
Room 12
Room 13 Georgia W.
Art Award Mikey F. Maggie F. Michael E.
India P. Georgia G. Rohan T. Karli Y. Tia M.
Nude Food Akaisha L.
3/4 Reading Challenge Polglase & Manley

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

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 $1.00 - $5.00

LIBRARY OVERDUES
Several students have overdue books from February. Could assist your child to follow up on returning books. We like to see children borrowing regularly, but students with overdue books are unable to borrow new books. Any issues please come and see please.
Wendy Jackson

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

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.

EASTER RAFFLE
●Lots and lots of prizes to win ●
Raffle tickets have been sent home
PLEASE PLACE DONATIONS AT THE OFFICE
Raffle prizes will be drawn at a special assembly on Thursday 26th @ 2:30pm COME JOIN THE FUN !

Do You Still Have a video player?
FREE VIDEOS! VHS
Due to changing of technology we are disposing of a number of VHS videos. If you have a video player please feel free to come to the office tomorrow and Friday to see if there are any videos you would like.
At the end of the week all videos left over will be disposed of.

VALUE OF THE MONTH : HONESTY
Students who displayed this value in an outstanding manner last week :
Akaisha A. Jasmin B. Andy P. Tayla S. Lara C.
WAYS YOU CAN ADD MATHS LEARNING INTO YOUR LIFE WITHOUT MUCH FUSS

Lower Primary Students;
Ask for students to get a number of items in the shop (e.g. 8 apples)
Make ‘cool high 5’s’ by using some fingers on each hand (e.g. 3 on one hand and 2 on the other)
Play "what am I spying?" instead of 'I spy": Describe a 3D object that you can see, one clue at a time, while the other people try to guess what it is. e.g. My object is bigger that the TV. It has smooth sides that are rectangles. It has smooth sides that are rectangles. It is white. It has two doors on it. It is very cold)
Look at maps of where you are going and let the kids try to follow the map while you get there. Find your street on a map.

Middle, Upper Primary Students;
When playing board games (e.g. snakes and ladders or monopoly) use two dice. Let the kids choose if they want to move forwards by both, back by both, or forwards by one and backwards by the other.
Let the child work out the logistics for their birthday party (or dinner, or a camping trip etc.) how many cups, plates, lollies etc for the guests as well as the timing (e.g. everyone will be here by 4:00 so we will play games until 4.30 and serve cake. That will take 15 minutes etc)
When on the highway, estimate how long it would take to get to the next town given the speed limit and distance.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Today we had our community breakfast. There was a great outcome due to the amount of students, parents and teachers. The estimated amount of people was about 50.
For breakfast today we had eggs on toast with a milo or juice.
Everyone who came enjoyed it and had a fabulous time. We would like to give a special thanks to Before School Care for helping set up for breakfast, to all teachers and especially Mrs E for cooking all the eggs.
By Georgia and April.

Ride To School Day

A big thankyou to all students and parents who participated in the National ride to School day last Friday. It was fantastic to see so many students and children making the journey to school by bike, scooter or roller blades. The school encourages students and parents to be active and ride, scoot or roller blade to school on a consistent basis.
The final tally of bikes/ scooters that were ridden on the day was 45. The bike shed was busting at the seams!
During the day students also had the opportunity to take part in a bike safety presentation which highlighted the importance of always riding safely - wearing a correctly fitting helmet, ensuring the bike is well maintained and is in proper working order and obeying simple road rules.
Corey Warne - Deputy Principal
Kooka visits Speci!

Loukas - I liked taking a photo with Kooka.
Milly - I liked drawing a picture with Kooka.
Jemma - I liked having my photo taken with Kooka.
Lara - I liked dancing with Kooka.
Bonnie - I liked it when Kooka shook her tail.
Peyton - I liked having a cuddle.
Harry - I liked giving Kooka a big cuddle.
The U Kee - I liked Kooka’s feathers.
Skye - I liked cuddling Kooka.
Julian - I liked when we had a photo.
Ella - I liked giving her a cuddle.
Devlan - I liked cuddles.
Jeremy - I like getting a cuddle.
Mason - I liked Kooka’s cuddles.
Rhiley - I was a bit frightened of Kooka!
Will - I liked it when Kooka danced.
Aiden - I liked it when Kooka was dancing.
Ashton - I liked it when we did some singing with Kooka.

Unfortunately Jaeda and Aylah missed Kooka’s visit, but they loved hearing our stories.

Photos will be in this Thursday’s paper and you can also view them on the Advertiser’s website.

Gariwerd Excursion

Last Thursday a group of students, parents and staff travelled to Stawell to visit Bunjils Cave and Halls Gap. It was a fun and educational day for the students, parents and staff. It was a long drive but it was worth it. At Bunjils cave we learnt how to make a traditional paint out of oka and water. Oka paint is made from coloured sand stone which is found in the Halls Gap area. We also looked at some traditional rock art paintings dating back to 40,000 years ago! After that we drove to ‘Brambuk’ the National park and Cultural centre. We learnt about traditional dance, paintings and tools used for hunting. Students also had the opportunity to play the didgeridoo. After that we went into a theatre and watched a short clip about Gariwerd then we travelled back home.

By Hayley C. & Jacob C.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands

Please come and join our walking school bus this Thursday! 8:30am

ASC CLAY PLAY

This week at After School Care we had clay play - it was very messy but lots of fun! We have been taking advantage of the good weather and having lots of fun outside. We even had balloon fun on the basket ball court. Please remember to cancel your booking if you know in advance that you won’t need it.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We are booked out on Wednesday, and close to full on Thursday and Friday and we sometimes have to refuse bookings only to find we haven’t been advised of cancellations.

Please also continue to pack extra snacks for your child when they attend ASC as they are often still hungry after the snack provided.

Caramel Apples

*apples
*butter
*brown sugar
*vanilla essence

We picked the apples from the tree.

We peeled the apples and cut them up. Luke J

We picked apples from the garden. I peeled all the green skin and cut them into halves. Then we cooked them - they tasted delicious. Bladen J

We picked the apples off the tree and we cut them up. Asher

Today at cooking club we made caramel apples. we used apples, butter, brown sugar and vanilla essence. It smelled so, so, so good! Mikayla

Today we made caramel apples. First we picked them, then we peeled them and cut them. Then we cooked them and it smelled good. Kasey M
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Fri 20th Mar</td>
<td><strong>HARMONY DAY</strong></td>
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<td>Tues 24th Mar</td>
<td>Junior School Council Investiture @ 2:15pm</td>
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<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>PREPS REST DAY !!!</td>
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<td>Thurs 26th Mar</td>
<td>Assembly@ 2:30pm&lt;br&gt; Easter Egg Raffle Drawn</td>
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| Thurs 26th March | **DISCO NIGHT**  
**Tickets $4.50**  
6:30 - 8:00pm          |
| Fri 27th March | Last Day of Term<br> 1:45pm Dismissal                     |