Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

Yesterday saw a successful Open Day with many existing families visiting and prospective Preps. Unfortunately the weather did not favor us. A reminder that there is an Information Night for prospective Prep Families tomorrow night at 6.00 pm. Babysitting will be available.

China Trip /Out of Uniform Day

It is only 8 sleeps until Emily, Callum and Molly, our three students travelling to China with Team China Bendigo, set off on a trip of a lifetime. To demonstrate our support for the program and these families, we are having an Out of Uniform Day on Friday. Students are asked to dress in yellow and red clothing and bring along a gold coin donation. The Team China Program continues to grow and progress in Bendigo and is unique to our city. Students from Specimen Hill benefit by having students from China visit our school and also, from hearing and reading about the experiences of others travelling to China. Our students will be encouraged to access the Team China blog to follow these students’ trips. Mrs Craig and Rebecca Eastley will be accompanying these students. Whilst Miss Eastley is away we welcome back Judi Garwood who will be taking Miss Eastley’s class.

Nits

Several parents have reported that their children have had nits. The Head Lice Program runs throughout the term when our volunteers can fit it into their schedules. However, every parent should be checking their child’s hair on a regular basis. It is only when this happens that we can keep the pesky animals under control.

Homework

As part of the role as Acting Principal I have the opportunity to attend forums around Education. On Monday there was a presenter from Professor David Howes, who works on developing curriculum for Victoria. Often in newspapers we read that homework makes little difference to children’s schools progress. However, often under the headlines there is further explanation of this matter. In primary school it makes little difference because most students complete it. However, in high school it makes a significant impact on student achievement. Part of our role in primary school is to prepare students for high school and developing good habits around homework is important for all students’ progress into high school. Teachers monitor homework throughout the year and if it is not completed, will address this in parent teacher interviews.

Resilience

This is a word often used. It is a quality that is essential to live a successful life and one of our key school values. To build resilience we need to be able to struggle and persevere. Failure and mistakes are part of life, but it is the learning we gain from these experiences that is pivotal in building resilience. Some parents try to protect their children from the experience of failure but with guidance, and sometimes with assistance, it can build a child’s character and lead to them becoming successful citizens. Mistakes and failure are part of everyone’s life and something we can all learn from.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

This fund of $125 is for primary school students of eligible families to help cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. For more information, please see page 3.

Wishing you all a great week

Wendy Jackson (Acting Principal)
SENIOR CLASSES
Greetings all. Welcome to another busy week. Yesterday saw science activities enjoyed across the entire school. Our Literacy focus this week turns to Morals and Fables and linking Author’s Purpose. Some students are learning the name “Aesop” for the very first time. Students are also enjoying a “free write” this week. In Numeracy, students are consolidating their knowledge of BODMAS. Students are also enjoying choice and autonomy through an Author Study project and our Integrated Global Citizens unit.

Our 3 excited 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://specihillpsc.global2.vic.edu.au/ and post comments (appropriate ones) along the way. Now, the first person that tells Mr Pysing 3 different “Tier 3” words to do with being a Global Citizen will win a Chocolate Frog! Regards, Bec, Sophie, Adam and Scott.

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 have had a very busy week celebrating Education Week and it was wonderful to see many visitors yesterday for our Open Day. This week in Reading we are focusing on making predictions at the beginning and throughout a story. You can do this at home with your nightly reading. In Writing we have begun to focus on Procedure writing. In Numeracy we are talking about Addition and 2D shapes.

Could all parents please ensure that their child is reading each night and returning their diary to school EACH day. Also each child needs to complete their weekly spelling homework. It is a school expectation that all children complete this. Please monitor these at home.

Natalie Stacey, Brad, Jacqui, Jo and Kylie.

PREP NEWS
This week our focus has been on the sounds Ff and Gg. We had fun thinking about all the things that start with these letters. Our word of the week is ‘look’. It would be great if you could keep your eye out for this in your reading. Well done to those students who have reached 100 nights of reading, this is a wonderful achievement. Please continue to help your child learn the common words, which are on a laminated blue card in their reader bag. Many students are not bringing a library bag on Thursday and therefore can’t borrow. If your child would like to borrow a book, please make sure they have a bag to carry it in (plastic bags are fine!).

Premier’s Reading Challenge - Many of our Preps have chosen to participate in the PRC. We think this is a fantastic experience for them to be a part of. An information note was sent home last week outlining how to log your challenge books and where to find the book list. In the classroom, we will also be reading many of the challenge books. If you would like to log these books for your child please pop in and see us. We also have some of the challenge books that you can borrow overnight. 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 will be hosting a Prep Information Evening next Thursday the 21st of May for all prospective 2016 Preps. 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.

Thank you for your continued support - Emily and Joan

Grades 3 & 4
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.

Werribee Zoo Excursion
It’s here, Today we are on our Excursion! Can’t wait to share our trip with you all next week.

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 write (and say) for 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 reiterate 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.

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Thank you for your continued support - Emily and Joan

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
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:
Corey B; Loukas W; Nevada T; Olivia B; Taijah S; Kaire K; Michael B; Logan K; Kalo D; Zak E

STARS OF THE WEEK 18TH MAY

Room 1  Charlie R; Jovi B
Room 2  Milly G
Room 3  
Room 4  Maeghan S
Room 5  Deborah C
Room 6  Logan D
Room 7  Tahlia P
Room 8  Haylee J
Room 9  Lara M
Room 10  Tye’Reign M
Room 11  Tia M
Room 12  Kaleb K
Room 13  Jazi R

OSHC Awards  Jake N
Nude Food  1/2S — Room 4

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

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 for 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 with today’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.
**2015 EVENTS CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am Running Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8:15am Breakfast Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Walking School Bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 21st May</td>
<td>2016 PREP INFORMATION NIGHT 6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd May</td>
<td>CASUAL DAY—Red &amp; Yellow Theme—Gold Coin donation towards China Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 22nd May</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting 9:00am Staff Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28th May</td>
<td>Chinese Exchange Depart</td>
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**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)

Click on the ‘more’ icon (bottom right). Scroll down to School Blogs and enter the Speci Art Show to view the fabulous work being created by our students. Click on a photo to see more and scroll down.

Sandy Young
Art Teacher

**TEAM CHINA**

Callum, Molly and Emily.
Team China Blog available on School Information app

**CROSS COUNTRY**

— Selected Students Only

Wednesday 27th May – Bendigo Race Course

Parents are welcome to go to the event on Wednesday to cheer for the Specimen Hill children competing.

Don’t forget to “rug up”. The times of the events are as follows:

- **A.M. 10.30 – 12.00 NOON**
  - 10 years 2000m Boys
  - 10 years 2000m Girls
  - 9 years 2000m Boys
  - 9 years 2000m Girls
  - 8 years 2000m Boys
  - 8 years 2000m Girls

- **P.M. 12.45 – 2.30**
  - 11 years 3000m Boys
  - 11 years 3000m Girls
  - 12 years 3000m Boys
  - 12 years 3000m Girls

**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
Please Phone or Text Leah Johns
BSC Phone: 0438 062 561
Please Phone or Text Karen Emerson

**STOP**

Students DO NOT enter/exit Via the main building
Our children’s future in the very best of hands.............

OPEN DAY – Tuesday 19th May – Science Activities

Good Luck to all those who will be participating.

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.

This is a compulsory fee for all children.
Kid’s Corner by Prep H

If I had a magic wand I would...

- turn CALLUM into a frog
- turn Miss Hill into a bird.

If I had a magic wand I would...

- turn myself into a fairy
- turn myself into a queen with a crown.

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