Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Winter has certainly arrived this week as could be expected by the date on the calendar. Please ensure that your child/children bring a jacket or jumper to school and that it is named. We tend to see a big spike in lost property at this time of the year. Also a reminder that only headbands and ribbons matching with the school colours are permitted.

Staffing and Mentoring of Schools

The school’s good practice around student Wellbeing, has been recognised by other schools in the area. Last week, Mr Polglase was working at another school in Bendigo, to assist the school with implementing an Alternate Lunchtime Program and student management routines. Mr Pysing is currently continuing the work, with the same school and will return to Specimen Hill Primary next Thursday. Kaye Blackley has also played a mentoring role, as has Mr Tanner in the area of ICT. In Mr Pysing’s absence, Annie Sergeant will be taking 5/6P. Mrs Craig will return to Specimen Hill Primary school in Term 3.

Table Tennis

The school has purchased some table tennis tables. It was wonderful to see Mr Broadbent conducting a Phys Ed lesson in the multi-purpose room yesterday, with students all playing table tennis. Students will be using these tables at break times on a roster basis and our aim is to keep students active and engaged. There are other plans to provide more activities to students during break times.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Reports continue to be worked on by staff and will be sent home on the 19th of this month. Parent /Teacher interviews will be conducted on Wednesday the 24th of June. It is expected that parents and the student attend the interview, so that it is a three way process. Interviews will run from 12.00-7.00pm. Bookings can be made online via Interviews Online, or if you are unable to, send a note to your class teachers to submit your choice of time. The online booking system will open next Wednesday 10th June. Out of School Child Care will run on this day, bookings are essential. This is a Pupil Free Day.

Science Day

Last Thursday all students were involved in a multi-aged Science day. Groups of students made up of a mixture of grade levels rotated through a variety of activities. It was fabulous to see the level of engagement of all students as I walked around. Students building catapults and seeing how far they could propel a marshmallow was just one of the extremely engaging activities.

China Trip

Our three students, Mrs Craig and Miss Eastley have safely arrived in China and, I am sure, they are enjoying the warm weather. If you would like to catch up with their adventures you can access the Team China Blog and leave some comments. The students and teachers will return on Saturday morning. See page 5 for Blog exerts.

Reading

Please ensure your child continues to complete home reading on a regular basis. This is one of the best ways that parents can support their child’s progress and education. Stay warm and enjoy the long weekend

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

Greetings all. In Literacy, our reading focus this week is Summarising. Children are also having an opportunity to experience a “Free Write” this week. In Numeracy, we are focusing on Fraction Operations for number lessons and Time for our applied lessons. Our Integrated topic of “We are Global Citizens” is going very well. It was a joy to see all senior students heavily engaged in their projects last week when they were given an opportunity to go into detail about their topics. Students have all chosen related themes to the unit and they’re enjoying getting involved in the “Take Action” stage.

**Thursday 18th of June** 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. Sign up has occurred with great interest shown in all teams. Training will commence shortly. Our 3 Speci students and Miss Eastley are currently having a great experience in China. You can keep in tune with their international experience by logging into this Blog: [http://specihillpstc.global2.vic.edu.au/](http://specihillpstc.global2.vic.edu.au/) and post comments (appropriate ones) along the way.

Regards, Bec, Sophie, Adam and Scott.

**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.

**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. 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 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 Scent 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 for a month. We have not only engaged in this activity but as a group have decided to try and raise a donation for a month.

**JUNIOR CLASS**

**Readers** - Would families please have a hunt around home for any spare school readers. We seem to be missing a number from our classrooms. If you find any, please send them back with your child asap.

**Reading at home** - Just a reminder that it is a requirement that students are reading at home at least five nights a week. Research has shown that;

**Quantity Matters** - The more students read at home, the more practice they have at applying reading strategies learnt in the classroom and concreting their knowledge.

**Time Matters** - Grade 1/2 student should be reading around 20 minutes each night.

**Variety Matters** - Giving students a chance to read a variety of texts improves their vocabulary, text knowledge and helps them to build connections.

**Choice Matters** - Having students read texts at their individual level is extremely important. If the text is too easy all of the time, students will not learn new skills, and if the text is too hard, students will not understand what they are reading. Also, both extremes can cause students to become disinterested in reading. This is why students have set texts they receive from their teachers.

**Fluency Matters** - Students learning to read as though they are talking and less word for word is highly important as the more fluent a student is being with their reading, the more information they are taking in from the text they are reading.

**Conversation Matters** - Having a conversation with students after they have finished reading a text is extremely important. Developing comprehension skills takes time and can only be achieved through lots of practice.

**Toys** - Just a further reminder that students are not to bring toys to school unless it is their ‘share day’. Please ensure all toys remain at home.

**Spelling** - Students have individualised spelling words, which are to be completed each week in an orange book. Students need to make sure they are practising these words every week, ready to be partner tested on their assigned day.

Thank you,

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

**PREP NEWS**

This week in Prep we are learning about the word ‘up’ and looking at the sounds ‘sh’ and ‘ch’. Keep an eye out for these in your nightly reading. Thank you to those students and parents who continue to do their home reading. As the Term draws to a close and we start to get tired, please remember it is important to keep reading. Well done to those students reaching some reading milestones of 75 and 100 nights.

The unit on Food is now in full swing! We have enjoyed making and writing about orange juice, discussing healthy foods and sometimes foods and we have planted some alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, spinach and peas and we look forward to watching these grow (hopefully!). In Numeracy we are getting very clever and now learning how to add small numbers together.

**Just a few reminders:**

Please make sure your child is coming to school with a jumper on (named!). The weather is getting very chilly, and while it is warm outside.

We are improving with our Nude Food but still have some wrappers in our lunch boxes. Please help your child to minimise the amount of wrappers in their lunch box.

As we are coming towards the end of term, with only 3 weeks to go, we are all starting to feel a bit tired. Please make sure your child is getting plenty of rest and going to bed at a decent hour to help them make it till the end of term in a happy and positive way.

Emily and Joan

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Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
Parents are reminded that the $100 per student is now due. This is a compulsory fee for all families. Family statements have been sent home. Payment at the school office or via the QKR payment app, or Direct Credit.

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.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Parents & Friends
There is now a Suggestions box located at the front office. If you have a suggestion for us to consider, please write it down and pop it in the box. Fundraising Idea? Parent networking idea? School improvement? Let us know! Our children’s future in the very best of hands..............
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:
HONESTY
Students who displayed this value in an outstanding manner last week:
India P.  Lilly T.  Hope L.  Tyrone H.  Michael E.

STARS OF THE WEEK 1ST JUNE

Room 1  Joel G.
Room 2  Riley GR
Room 3  Tae Mc
Room 4  Ronan M
Room 5  Kirsten R.
Room 6  Xavier C.
Room 7  Xavier T.
Room 8  Mallaki M.
Room 9  Jed G.
Room 10  Georgia G.
Room 11  Holley B.
Room 12  Paige G.
Room 13  Makayla L.
Art Award  Trey D.
Reading Award  Sebastian C.  R4

Nude Food  1/2 Michelle/Pelly  Jovi B

The Department of Education and Training has released an App which is designed to help you better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day. The App, called SchoolMate, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets. SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS)
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your kids in each subject and year level
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day. Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and community, for example, designing learning programs around what your children are interested in, or around days or celebrations that are important to our community.

SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10. I encourage you to download SchoolMate and to please talk with your teacher or myself if you are interested to find out more about how our school teaches the curriculum.

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 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 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

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LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED
FIRST DAY IN SHANGHAI
Wow!! What a day!! We started our first day with a trip on the MET to the Pearl Tower. It was very busy at the Pearl Tower today but we still were able to get on the glass viewing platform. We then went out for a dumpling lunch – we had pork, chicken and crab dumplings- YUM!! Then we went shopping at the Yu Yuan gardens. We had our first taste of bargaining- we picked up a few goodies. Some sore feet now but loving every moment!! Thanks for all the comments!!

BUSY DAY
Yesterday we visited a temple. We were so amazed by how big and how beautiful it was. We also went on a ferry cruise along the river last night. We are having so much fun and the kids have been great! A longer post to come tonight!

SUZhou
Yesterday we left Shanghai on a bus to head to Suzhou. We had quite a relaxed morning packing up our rooms, travelling on the bus and settling into our hotel at Suzhou. Then we travelled to Tiger Hill on the bus. Tiger Hill was beautiful and we learnt a lot about the history of Suzhou there. Then we went out to a beautiful restaurant by the lake in Suzhou. We had a banquet dinner. There were some yummy dishes like sweet and sour pork and some more ‘interesting’ dishes such as a bowl with a chicken broth that had a whole (and I mean WHOLE) chicken floating in it. The kids sampled delights such as chicken feet, chicken head and fish eyes....... Having some connectivity issues so don’t panic if there are less blog posts in the next few days- will update more when we return to Shanghai.
-Miss E
P.S. Thank you for all the lovely birthday wishes!!

TEAM CHINA - Callum, Molly and Emily.
Team China Blog available on School Information app OR if on the web: www.specihillpstc.global2.vic.edu.au

WALKING SCHOOL BUS THURSDAY MORNINGS
Our children’s future in the very best of hands............
## Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<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>Fri 12th Jun</td>
<td>Pinafore orders close</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Footy - Hot Dog - Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orders close on Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 24th Jun</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 25th Jun</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family Photo envelopes from Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26th Jun</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overdue Library Books Please Return

**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

Please Phone or Text Leah Johns

Please Phone or Text Karen Emerson

**Wed**: Popcorn & Dream Catchers

**Thur**: Toast & Posters

**Fri**: Chips & Movie

**Mon**: Saladas & Games

**Tues**: Sandwiches & Balloons

**Wed**: Yoghurt & Quiet Play

### School Beanies

**Hand Made by Parents & Friends**

**$5 Each**

### School Pinafore Orders

If your child is interested in having a school pinafore for next term, they need to be ordered now. Approximate price is $55.00 per pinafore.

A Special Order needs to be placed if you require one for the start of next term. Please see Kaye or Wendy at the office.

A total of a dozen will need to be ordered prior to make it cost effective.

**ORDERS CLOSE 12TH JUNE**

### Grade 3 Netball Clinic

**Additional players wanted**

We are currently looking for a couple of Grade 3 students to join the Speci Aqua Netball team. The clinic runs each Saturday @ 12 noon at the Golden City Netball Courts and includes basic skills and short games.

If you are interested please call Naomi Evans (0408 056 560) or Lauren Kleinitz (0434 218 274)