Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to week 2 of Term 1 for 2015. The school year has started very smoothly. There is a very calm yet vibrant sense across the school and teachers and students are keen in readiness for a productive year of learning and fun.

If your family circumstances have changed over the holidays whether it is a change of address, phone number, family situation or any court orders, you will need to let the staff in the office, class teachers (or Di and Corey) know as soon as possible. Current information is crucial for us to be able to contact the appropriate numbers and people in case of emergencies.

- Every Wednesday there will be ‘rotations’ where children move around on a weekly basis through a range of activities. These activities include: science, circus, music, cooperative games, Asian studies etc. All of the rotations will be conducted in teams, eg 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 and will occur every Wednesday starting in week 3.
- A reminder that $50 deposit and notices for the 5/6 camp need to be returned by Friday. The camp is looming very quickly and it is a most wonderful camp to experience so we don’t want anyone to miss out.
- At the end of 2014 the Speci Wellbeing committee initiated the collection of baby packs, educational and vanity packs to be donated by the school community and to be sent over to assist children from East Timor. These packs are now in transit to East Timor in a container of goods collected and sent by the Eaglehawk Rotary Club. A HUGE thank you to all families who contributed to these packs - they really did look fabulous and I know that their impact on children and communities in East Timor will be greatly appreciated.
- I am extremely proud of the continual generosity of our school community for their thoughts and significant donations towards assisting and supporting other communities.
- 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 requirements and expectations from the school.
- Playgroup will start on Thursday 5th February from 9.00 till 10.45 and will be held in the Multi Purpose Room. Please bring along a friend as the Playgroup is open to others, not only our school community.
- The canteen will re-start on Monday 9th Feb. The menu has been updated and unfortunately some of the prices have had a slight increase to overcome rising costs. We are always looking for Canteen helpers to work in the canteen on either a Monday morning or Friday morning. If you are able to donate some time can you please let Kaye or Wendy in the office know.
- Preps will have a ‘rest’ day every Wednesday during February and also two further Wednesdays on Wednesday 11th March and 25th March. During this time the prep teachers - Joan and Emily are assessing the students to determine their entry point in Literacy and Numeracy. This is a practice right across the state.
- There will be a Pupil Free day on Friday 27th Feb. On this day the staff will be involved in asthma, CPR and Anaphylaxis training along with other Professional Development. The OHSC program will be operating on this day from 8am to 6pm.
- As you are aware there is no longer EMA funding granted by the Government to families who have a Health Care card. The school council has decided to provide a $100 credit for all recipients of current Health Card holders (you must bring your card to the office for photocopying) to be put towards excursions, camps, uniforms etc. Please see Kaye or Wendy if you are the recipient of this bonus.
- As Term 1 is a Sun Smart term, all students are required to wear a school hat whenever they are outside. Hats are available from the office for $12 each. As from this week students without a hat will be required to remain in the Library at lunch time or under cover at afternoon recess.
- A reminder that children should have a healthy lunch every day. Soft drinks, cordial and lollies are banned from lunches. All students should have a drink bottle (named) containing water to be sipped throughout the day. If children come to school without lunch there are lunches available.
- Absenteeism will be closely monitored throughout the year. This also relates to students who are coming to school late. At the end of 2015, I was greatly dismayed to see that some students had missed up to a quarter of their school days due to absenteeism or lateness to school. This automatically has a negative impact on that child’s learning, social connections and attitude to school, routines and expectations. In most cases it is not the child’s fault if they are late or absent but the parents. All parents have a legal responsibility to send their children to school every day, on time, unless there is a legitimate reason such as illness.
- A focus for all students in 2015 is the development and enhancement of Oral Language. Unfortunately many students start school with poor oral language which automatically places challenges on the development of literacy-reading, writing, speaking as well as numeracy. The greater exposure to words the easier it is for child to read and the more capable the child will be in all literacy areas. But there are ways to enhance this.

Some suggestions are:
- Children learn new words through experience. When reading, point out the names of the pictures eg horse, hose etc. Then the finer detail eg horse’s mane, hose’s nozzle.
- Even simple pictures can be used to teach new words. When you identify objects always repeat the words to the child.
- These simple strategies will assist the accumulation of exposure to words.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me through a phone call or by appointment. Best wishes for the week ahead.

Di Craig, Principal
CLASS NEWS

SENIOR CLASSES
Welcome to another year at Specimen Hill. This year we have 4 classes in the senior department; 5/6 Eastley, 5/6 Williams, 5/6 Pysing and 4/5 Tanner. We welcome Miss Sophie Williams to the team, she has settled in very well! We also have a few new students in our department, so we welcome Mikayla, Shayne and Zhan to Speci!

This year we are transitioning between 1 to 1 student netbooks and students iPads within the classroom. Grade 6 students can still use their netbooks, and will have them returned to them once they have paid the outstanding $150 fee. iPads will be used throughout the four senior classes to supplement to Grade 6’s netbooks. Once payment is made, the netbooks belong solely to the student and they can keep them for their personal use at the end of the year. They currently meet technology requirements of most high schools within the region.

Grade 5/6 camp is coming up very quickly. Permission notes have been handed out to students, these, along with a $50 deposit need to be returned to school by no later than THIS FRIDAY to secure your child’s position on the camp. Final payments are due by FRIDAY the 20th of FEBRUARY. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at the school.

With the weather warming up it is essential that students are wearing their school hats outside (if your child needs a new one, they can be purchased at the school office) and that they have a bottle of water available on their tables during class time.

Rebecca, Sophie, Scott and Adam

MIDDLE CLASSES
Welcome back to parents and students for the 2015 school year. Students have settled back into routine well and are looking forward to a year of fun and learning.

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 writing 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.

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.

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 everyone to a new year! We have had a very settled start back at school, which all parents and children should be proud of. A few housekeeping items for the year: please ensure all personal items (uniforms, lunch boxes, drink bottles and otherwise) are clearly labelled. We encourage you to send a bottle of water to school, especially during the warmer weather. Term 1 is a sun smart term, meaning hats are required in the yard. If you need a new hat they can be purchased from the office. Home reading is an important part of your child’s learning and it is a requirement that they read at home regularly. Please take the time to listen to your child read each day. Our spelling program will be commencing soon so keep your eyes peeled for this in reader bags. It is a requirement that children practice their spelling words each week. We look forward to a very exciting and busy year in the 1/2 department.

If you have any queries make sure you ask your classroom teacher,

Natalie Stacey, Brad, Jacqui, Jo and Kylie.

PREP CLASS
What a great start to Prep we have all had! Welcome to all our new families and our returning families. Our first two days have been very calm and positive and the children are settling in well. If your child is having difficulty settling in, please remember it is best to leave ASAP to minimise the settling time.

Over the last couple of days we have been learning the routines at school, started our reading and writing program, spent time with our buddies and learnt about colours and the number one. We have also spent some time with our specialist teachers including LOTE, PE & Art.

Students would have been sent home with a letter yesterday with some detailed information for parents about the start of the school year. If you didn’t receive yours or have misplaced it, please see your classroom teacher.

Students will be receiving Book Club catalogues throughout the year. This is an opportunity to purchase books for your child. Please return the order form to the office if you are interested.

Please ensure your child is getting plenty of rest as school is very tiring at the start of the year.

We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to reporting all the prep news here in the Speci.

Emily Hill & Joan Mullen

Healthy Lunches

All schools these days promote healthy food in lunch boxes, but trying to find a variety of healthy foods for lunch boxes can be difficult.

www.kidspot.com.au has a section on lunch boxes, with recipes for snacks and lunches including wraps, pizzas, vegetable and chicken sausage rolls and mini quiches.

www.happytummies.com.au also has some great lunch box options for gluten, dairy and wheat free snacks and lunches.

If you are on Facebook then check out ‘The Nourished Psychologist’. This mother of three has awesome ideas around healthy lunch boxes. The earlier you start with children choosing healthy snacks, the easier it is to say NO to things like chips, sweet biscuits and cakes.

Children often leave items they don’t want in their lunchbox, so ask the question at the end of the day as to what they ate?

It is a trial for the first few weeks. Get them involved in preparing the lunch box even the night before!!

Often the students are asking for additional fruit - do not underestimate their appetite. Provide more food initially, but have them eat the left overs after school and share a discussion what they are eating the left overs after school and share a discussion what healthy lunch boxes include.

WATER BOTTLES ARE PERMITTED IN CLASS ROOMS - NO CORDIAL

CLASS OF 2015 POLOS

Despite our best effort to have the shirts ordered and back on time, our supplier had a hiccup with the embroidery design. So the shirts are yet to be delivered.

This however, worked in favour of our two new Grade 6 students, who’s names were able to be included in the printing on the back.

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
QKR is the preferred method of receiving payments for school items at Specimen Hill Primary school. Please download the app over the holidays and have it all ready to run for the New Year for Canteen orders, school uniform and school excursions.

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

**Step 1 Download Qkr!**
on your Android or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app

**Step 2 Register**
select your Country of Residency as ‘Australia’ and follow the steps to register

**Step 3 Find our school**
Scan the QR code or type in the text below provided. Our school will also appear in “Locations Nearby” if you are within a km of the school

**Step 4 Register your children**
When first accessing your school menu, you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school orders on their behalf.

Now you’re ready to order directly from your phone...

**STARS OF THE WEEK**

Room 1
Room 2
Room 3
Room 4
Room 5
Room 6
Room 7
Room 8
Room 9
Room 10
Room 11
Room 12
Room 13

**Ashton McM.**
**Asher F.**
**Jake N.**
**Luke J.**
**Mikai C.**
**Shayla T.**
**Trasiah C.**

**QKR is the preferred method of receiving payments for school items at Specimen Hill Primary school.**

**Please advise absences via the app**

Emails are sent directly to the class teacher when you advise student absence via this app.

**Access School calendar, Newsletters, Push notifications, Excursion advice**

**DO YOU HAVE YOUR HAT?**

All items that are brought to school should be labelled with student’s name. This includes lunch boxes, smaller containers inside, all articles of school uniform, even initials inside shoes? The students tend to leave expensive jackets laying around and they are quickly collected by others!

**ARE YOUR ITEMS LABELLED?**
School Christmas Hampers
A big thank you to all parents who very generously donated some beautiful items for the school Christmas hampers. These hampers have been sent to East Timor to support families in need. The feedback received is that the hampers were extremely well received by the families and that they are very grateful of the support from the school community.

Home Reading Program
Welcome back to all families and students to what promises to be another productive and exciting year ahead.

The single most powerful way in which you can support your child’s progress in school is through encouraging a love of reading. I particularly enjoyed hearing Jackie French (Senior Australian of the year/children’s author) promoting the importance of reading, on Australia day, in her acceptance speech. One point she made was that even as children gain skills in reading we should continue to read to and share books with them. It is a shared experience and shows that you value books and reading yourself. Reading allows you to inhabit the world of a variety of characters/people and builds empathy for others.

It is an expectation that all students read at least 5 nights a week. We ask that you monitor your child’s home reading and sign/initial their diaries on a nightly basis. Teachers will monitor the home reading program on a regular basis. We ask that you work with us to ensure that your child is ‘being the best that they can be.”

Below is a table setting out the expectations for each year level which is part of our homework policy that was developed in consultation with parents and staff. Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact myself or staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Expectations of at least 5 nights per week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>- 10 minutes reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-10 minutes of basic counting/ number skills/ word recognition/spelling words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2</td>
<td>- 20 minutes of reading</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spelling words on a daily basis/ number fact work when considered necessary by the classroom teacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4</td>
<td>-30 minutes of reading</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Spelling words on a daily basis/ timetables/basic number fact work when considered necessary by the classroom teacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>- A minimum of 30 minutes of reading a day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Spelling words on a daily basis/ number facts when required by the teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Sentence and reading work as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1-6</td>
<td>Special project work such as researching topics, completing information sheets, interviews/ discussions/ LOTE and Instrumental programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wendy Jackson
School Improvement Officer

Parents & Friends
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 27th February @ 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.

Library
As part of my role this year I will be overseeing the running of the Library. I am excited to be involved in this program and to encourage across the school a love of books and reading. The library is now up and running. Classes will have an opportunity throughout the week to visit the library and borrow. There will also be opportunities throughout the week to change books.

Parents can assist children with their books by encouraging them to return books regularly. To help protect library books students should use a protective bag, pillow case or shopping bag so liquid spills or foods don’t damage books. Library bags are available to purchase from the school for $2.00. Please see the office.

Times that students will be able to change books will be sent home at a later date, however, students can change books before school on Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday.

Wendy Jackson

Out of School Hours Care
2015 Enrolments
If you are requiring out of school care for 2015 new enrolment forms will need to be completed prior to starting.

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
CANTINEEN - MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

BROWN PAPER BAGS 20C IF SCHOOL SUPPLIES ONE

SUPER SANDWICHES, ROLLS

Salad (lettuce, tomato, cheese, grated carrot, cucumber, mayo.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sandwich</th>
<th>Roll</th>
<th>Wrap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(G) Chicken &amp; salad</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Ham &amp; salad</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Vegemite</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Cheese</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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SUPER COOL FOOD & MEGA SALADS - $4.00 each

**DINO SALAD** - dino nuggets served with lettuce, cherry tomatoes, cheese, carrot & hash browns

**NEMO SALAD** - Fish bites- served with lettuce, cherry tomatoes, cheese, carrot & hash browns

(G) MEGA HAM SALAD - served with ham, lettuce, cherry tomatoes, cheese and carrot.

(G) CLUCKY CHICKEN SALAD - served with lettuce, cherry tomatoes, cheese and carrot.

(G) FISHERMANS TUNA SALAD - served with lettuce, cherry tomatoes, cheese and carrot.

BURGERS $4.00

Chicken, lettuce, cheese & mayo

Beef, lettuce, cheese & tomato in a burger bun

SUPER HOT FOOD

(G) Bolognese sauce served over twista pasta & grated cheese $ 4.00

(G) Ham and cheese pizza $3.50

(A) Steamed dim sims 60c each

(A) Nachos w mild salsa & cheese $4.00

(A) Dino nuggets (5 pack) $2.50

MEAL DEALS $5.00

Dinosaur salad pack or Nemo salad pack with choice of small milk, juice or water.

TOASTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sandwich</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(G) Cheese &amp; ham</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Ham and tomato</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Cheese</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Bake bean</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
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</table>

SNACKS

DINO SNACK PACK Celery, Carrot sticks, Cheese sticks, sultanas $2.00

Moosies $1.30

Chocolate mousse pot $1.50

Gingerbread babies .60c

Zingy frozen yoghurt 50c

Honey soy chips $1.00

Yoghurt frogs .20c each (limit 5 per student)

ORDERS BY QKR PAYMENT APP
CLOSE AT 9.00AM ON DAY
FRIDAY CASH ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AT THE OFFICE BY THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
**2014 EVENTS CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9th Feb</td>
<td>Canteen Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 26th Feb</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet Interviews 2pm - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th Feb</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6th March</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9th Mar</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
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**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

Please phone the correct phone number for bookings
ASC Phone: 0447 788 636
Please phone or text Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations.
BSC Phone: 0438 062 561
Please phone or text Karen Emerson

**NEW 2015 ENROLMENT FORMS ARE REQUIRED FOR EVERY CHILD ATTENDING OSHC**

**PARENTS ... PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE NEAR SCHOOL GATES**

**TURNING ONLY**

**NO STOPPING**

**VOLUNTEERS!**

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.

**CANTEEN 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

**SCHOOL VALUES:**

Resilience, Excellence, Persistence, Honesty & Respect

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