Welcome to week 6 of Term 1 for 2015.

**Grade 5/6 Camp**

There was an exciting throng of 5/6 students out the front of the school this morning as they were waiting to board the bus to head off to the Baanya Biami camp. This is a hugely popular adventure camp and I know that the students will have a fabulous time. On the camp there are many physical challenges as well as personal challenges and team building. The staff who have accompanied the students are: Bec Eastley, Scott Pysing, Sophie Williams, Wendy Jackson, Todd Broadbent, Michael Lawlor and Adam Tanner.

**Parents and Friends**

The first Parents and Friends meeting for the year including the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Friday at 2:30pm in the Staffroom. All interested people are most welcome to attend. The Parents and Friends are an extremely hard working and supportive group of parents who make a valued contribution to the school community. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other people in our school community and enjoy an afternoon tea at the end of the meeting.

**Global Research Project**

Last week I received some exciting news. Specimen Hill has been selected as one of four schools from across Australia to be involved in an international research on: “**The impact of school autonomy on student achievement in 21st century education**”. This is a wonderful achievement as one of the selection criteria was to be a school that has made significant improvement over recent years and especially in the area of student achievement. There are 4 schools selected from 7 countries who are participating in the project. They are—Australia, Israel, United Kingdom, Canada, China, Finland and Singapore. Tomorrow Professor Brian Caldwell from Melbourne University will be visiting the school for the initial discussion around the project.

**Oral Language tips**

When using books to teach new words, add on to what your child says. Eg if he/she says “bird” when looking at a picture you can ‘add on’ by saying: “Yes, a big bird”. Or “a blue bird, a bird in a nest, a bird, it’s called a parrot.” This is how we let children know that we are listening to them and building their vocabulary at the same time.

**Rotations**

Every Wednesday each department have rotations of a range of activities for the students to participate in. The activities cover areas such as music, Asian studies, science, circus, cooperative games and other interesting programs. These activities expose the children to a wider range of experiences to support their regular classroom learning. Please ask your child about what interesting activities they participated in every Wednesday in particular.

**Labour Day holiday**

Monday 9th March is a public holiday so there will be no school.

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
The Grade 5/6 students left for camp this morning. They have headed off to Baanya Biami and have a busy few days of abseiling, archery, sliding down a giant slide, weaving their way through a low ropes course and many other activities that aim to develop their resilience and persistence. Next week's newsletter will include lots of stories about the camp along with some photos!
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’ started off extremely well, with all students placing great emphasis on their nightly reading. Unfortunately the reading nights are starting to decrease each week. 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.

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 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 white outside at break times they will unfortunately be asked to play indoors or undercover.

** A lot of students are still forgetting to bring their hats to school each day. If hats are being taken home, they need to be placed in school bags each night to ensure that they are not forgotten the next morning. Can students (with parent assistance) please remember to place their name on their hats too? We do seem to have a lot of hats without names.

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
Welcome to week 6. Our reading and spelling homework is in full swing. Please make sure you are completing your required work each day to support the learning at school. Lots to celebrate with many children achieving their 25 reading nights award!! Well done!

The weather is still quite warm, so drink bottles should be at school each day with fresh water. Children need to have these filled up before school so they are not wasting their class time. Thank you to all the parents who came in for our Meet & Greet sessions last Thursday. It was great to have a chat about all the wonderful children in our classes and get to know some more about them. Please remember we have Nude Food tomorrow – no wrappers in our lunches. Thank you for all your support, Natalie Stacey, Brad, Jacqui, Jo and Kylie.

PREP CLASS
Our first full week of school this week! As this is going to be a very tiring week, please ensure your child is getting to bed on time for a smooth and tear free week! Please ensure your child is doing their morning jobs on their own of a morning. Many are choosing to play outside until the music begins to start the school day, this is excellent.

End of Day: Next week, instead of collecting your child from the classroom they will be dismissed at the bell. You will need to organise a spot outside where your child can meet you following the home time bell. Please make sure your child knows where this spot is.

INTERVIEWS: Many thanks to the families who attended the ‘Meet and Greet ’Interviews last Thursday. It was a great opportunity for us to learn more about your child. If at some stage you need to speak to your classroom teacher further about your child, please make an appointment as before and after school are busy times and we can’t always give you the time you need.

READING: Many of the preps have reached 25 nights of home reading!! This is a fantastic achievement and they will be receiving awards for their wonderful efforts in the coming days. Please remember to read nightly with your child. Home reading is very important to improve your child’s learning. Continue to remind them to point to the words and look at the pictures. This week we have started to learn about the letters Tt and Pp and the sounds they make. We have been looking at the word ‘the’. During reading time your child should now be able to recognise the words I, can, to and the.

LUNCHES: Please remember to reduce the amount of wrappers in your child’s lunch box. Prep H were the Nude Food winners of Week 5 with only 11 wrappers, this is a fantastic effort!

RULE BOOKS: We are working on our rule books and the preps will soon be bringing then home to share with their families. Please discuss the rules with your child and sign and return the books to school ASAP.

CONSTRUCTION ITEMS: We are collecting small boxes and suitable small ‘bits and pieces’ to use for construction activities. These can be deposited in the box in the passage outside our rooms.

Thanks for your support.
Emily & Joan

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Parents & Friends

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 6th March @ 2.30 pm

STAFF ROOM @ SCHOOL

All positions will be declared vacant.

All Welcome, followed by afternoon tea

Parents’ and Friends’ meet 2-3 times per term to discuss information about what’s happening at Speci and to exchange ideas for the school.

Throughout the year, Parents’ and Friends’ create opportunities for meet and greets between parents, as well as raise funds for the benefit of the school.

You can be involved with Parents’ and Friends’:

As a Financial Member – this means you would attend regular meetings and have voting rights by paying a yearly $1.00 membership fee at the beginning of the year.

As an Associate Member – this means that you can attend regular meetings, however do not have voting rights. Associate Members receive the minutes of the meetings via email and also volunteer when larger events are being organised, such as Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls.

The following positions are open for nominations at the AGM:

President, Secretary & Treasurer.

Please join previous years’ members in the staff room on Friday to find out more about joining this active fun loving group.

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.

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
In 1/2O we have been learning about procedural writing. Here are some pieces of our work.

**How to make funny face biscuits**

**What I need:**
- Some biscuits, icing, M&M’s and lollies.

**What do I do:**
1. Get the equipment.
2. Make the icing.
3. Put the eyes on.
4. Make the nose.
5. Put the mouth on.
6. Eat it.

By India

**How to make funny faces**

You put flour in a bowl and put water in the bowl too. And put dye in to the flour and mix and put a biscuit on the table and put M&M’s and you put 2 lollies and half one and put it on the place mat and it will dry.

By Ben

**How to make funny face biscuits**

**What I need:**
- Icing in the bowl and get the good dye and mix it around and spread the icing on.

By Marcus

**Brushing my teeth**

Get my toothbrush, put the toothpaste on then scrub your teeth. Then spit it out then rinse your mouth.

By Kenzi

**Brushing our teeth**

**What you need:**
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, water.

**What I do:**
- Put the toothpaste on the toothbrush. Brush your teeth.

By Jasper

**Brushing our teeth**

You get the equipment
- Get your toothbrush and your toothpaste.
- Squeeze the toothpaste onto the toothbrush.
- Put the toothbrush under the water.
- Brush your teeth for 2 minutes.
- Place your toothbrush away.

By Taijah

**How I brush my teeth**

I get my toothbrush. I put my toothpaste on to my toothbrush. I put some water on my toothpaste.

I brush my teeth.

I drink some water.

By Ty

**Getting your toothbrush, then you put toothpaste on the brush. Brush teeth, then rinse.**

By Ashton

**Teeth**

**What do you do?**
- Brushing your teeth really hard or you will get black teeth. You will have to go to the dentist. It will be fun.

By Amy

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

**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.

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**Speci Running Club**

**Let’s Get Running**

Come along and join us! Grade 3 - 6 students can participate in the Specimen Hill Running Club with myself *(Mr. Broadbent)*. This is a fantastic way to get healthy and fit especially with the **Cross Country event being in early Term Two**.

**Tuesday mornings from 8:00am to 8:30am**

on the school oval. If students are able to complete **100 laps** of the school oval they will receive a $10 gift voucher from Rebel Sports - Bendigo

The running club will go to the end of Term Two.

I would like to thank Sam Bennett for this donation to the running club by Rebel Sports, we really appreciate the support.

Looking forward to seeing you with your running shoes on!

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**STARS OF THE WEEK**

02/03/15

| Room 1 | Harry W.        |
| Room 2 | Loukas N.       |
| Room 3 | Oscar M.        |
| Room 4 | Caleb W.        |
| Room 5 | Brilee T        |
| Room 6 | Thalia C        |
| Room 7 | Charlotte K.    |
| Room 8 | Riley Hicks     |
| Room 9 | Braydee T       |
| Room 10| LOTE            |

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**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:

Trey D, Jordan R, Tiara D

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**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

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**Splash into Fun**

**WITH PLAYGROUP VICTORIA - NATIONAL PLAYGROUP WEEK**

**Tuesday March 24**

10am-1pm

Lang Dale Recreation Reserve
Dynon, Elsternwick Long Gully

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**SCHOOL VALUES: Resilience, Excellence, Persistence, Honesty & Respect**

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**2015 EVENTS CALENDAR**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th Mar</td>
<td>Camp bus returns @ 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th Mar</td>
<td>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PARENTS &amp; FRIENDS 2:30pm in Staff Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9th Mar</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11th Mar</td>
<td>PREPS – DAY OFF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13th Mar</td>
<td>National Ride 2 School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th Mar</td>
<td>HARMONY DAY</td>
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<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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**Bendigo East Baseball Club**

*Est. 1961*

**Interested in playing Baseball?**

**Contact us today!**

**FEATURES OF OUR CLUB:**
- Family orientated
- Strong club ethos, with many active contributors

**TEAMS:**

We field teams in all age groups and have vacancies for boys or girls aged 6 years and older to play T Ball and Junior Baseball age groups U 12, U14 and U16 in the 2015 winter competition commencing Sunday the 19th of April. Seniors compete in either A, B or C grade.

**Male and female players are welcome.**

**CLUB FEES:**
- T Ball $45
- Under 12 $65
- Under 14 & Under 16 $85
- Under 18 $90
- Senior $140

Baseball training is held at the Ken Wust Oval, Quarry Hill. For more details go to [www.bendigoeast.baseball.com.au](http://www.bendigoeast.baseball.com.au)

Ph: Helen 0419 510 762 or Gay 0419137556

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**Harcourt Applefest**

**KIDS KARNIVAL**

Saturday 7th March

From 10am to 6pm

*Enjoy:* Castlaineau Circus, Spectra Sports, Climbing Wall, Jumping Castles, Pedal-powered Boats, Cars, Mini-train Rides, Pony Rides, Hip Hop, Animal Farm, BMX bikes, Side Show Alley.

Decorate your bike & join the Street Parade. Cool off at the afternoon pool party & disco.

Tickets from $5 to $25. An ALL DAY PASS provides you access to all attractions.

Pre-purchase & save at www.trybooking.com/GSSP

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

*Enquiries to* Sally-Anne Symes m: 0418 390 824 e: sally-anne.symes@lcfclubs.com.au www.lcfclubs.com.au (local to Bendigo)

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**Fun Language Clubs for Kids**

**FRENCH / MANDARIN / ITALIAN / GERMAN / SPANISH**

The fun way to become multilingual. Fun, play-based language clubs designed especially for children. Immersion style of delivery. Our passionate teachers use games, craft, songs, puppets, drama/role plays and other fun activities to get your child using the language naturally and quickly.

**After-school Language Clubs for primary kids 5-12yrs**

Immersion Kinder programs for 3-5yrs (Incredible results)

Little Linguist programs for 4-6yrs (playgroup in another language)

Saturday morning FUN Language Clubs

Tutoring & online resources to help your child’s LOTE FUN Conversation Clubs for Adults (Mandarin or French)

Imagine your child putting on a play of Goldilocks & the Three Bears in Mandarin, conversing with customs officials and shopkeepers in French as they pretend to visit Paris, playing ‘Simon Says’ in Spanish, playing hopscotch or snakes & ladders in Italian...

Prices start at $16.50 per session

Sibling discounts for families

Small groups / personalised learning

Immersion-based delivery

Everyone welcome

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**Fun Languages: for Little Linguists**

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**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.

**CAIENNE 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*

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**Turning only to stopping**

**PARENTS - PLEASE OBEY PARKING RULES**

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