Dear Parents,

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS—2009

At the close of the initial nominations we had two nominations for the two Staff positions and only one nomination for the four Parent positions.

After calling for further nominations for the three (3) remaining parent positions on School Council, we had six (6) nominations. A ballot has been conducted for these positions and closed at 4pm yesterday (26.02.09).

BALLOT RESULTS

Your elected members are:

Liz March
Mark Snell
Dean Stewart

These members will join Ken McWhae as the newly elected parent members for 2009 / 10.

On Monday night the new School Council met to discuss the appointment of a person to the vacant Community position. After considered discussion it was decided to offer the position to Mrs. Wendy White. Wendy has accepted the position.

Our School Council is now complete.

The next meeting of School Council will be held on Monday 23 March and will coincide with our Annual reporting meeting. The Annual Reporting meeting will be held at 6:30pm in the school library and is open to all school community members.

I would like to express a big thanks to retiring members of School Council and thank them on behalf of our school community for their many voluntary hours of work. They are: Staff; Katie Heard & Wendy Jackson. Parents; Trevor Cox, David Bloomfield & Steve Jones.

A special thanks to Steve Jones who has served as a School Councillor for 6 years!

Dates to Remember...

Mon 9 Mar - Labour Day Holiday
Sat 14 Mar - Working Bee (9am—12:30pm)
Mon 16 Mar - Parents & Friends AGM (2:15pm)
Mon 16 Mar - Artist in Residence project begins
Mon 23 Mar - Annual Reporting meeting—6:30pm
Mon 23 Mar - School Council meeting (7:00pm)
Tues 24 Mar - Arts Incursion- whole school
Fri 3 April - Last day Term 1—2:15pm finish

Term 2
Mon 20 April - Start Term 2—2009 - School Photos
Mon 27-29 April - Year 5/6 Camp

STARS OF THE WEEK

The Star of the Week awards were presented -
Monday 2 March to:
PG - Tiahna P
PQ - Bailey C
P/1B - Riley P
1/2 H - Portia H
1/2 MY - Carly F
1/2 SW - Jessica S
3/4B - Mitchell S
3/4G - Mason B
3/4GW - Emma B
3/4J - Siahnna A
5/6B - Cassie W
5/6M - Amy P
5/6S - Eleanor M

Congratulations to all these students for their achievements & contributions

PARENTS & FRIENDS AGM—2009

The Parents & Friends AGM will be held on Monday 16 March at 2:15pm. Please come along and contribute to this active group who support school wellbeing programs such as; Play group, School Canteen & Parent managed Head Lice program. They also support our school fundraising efforts, organise our school photos each year as well as many other school programs. They help us welcome new families into the school. Help them support your child / children!
BOOKS & REQUISITES PAYMENT
A reminder to parents about the schools Books and Requisites payment for 2009.
This fee pays for the books we purchase on your behalf for each student, at a cost of $70.00.
We request that each family contributes a voluntary $30.00.
This amount will support the continued development of our grounds & updating our technology equipment (eg. Notebooks & Interactive White Boards).
Thus the amount owing to the school is:
$100.00 for the first child and
$70.00 for each child thereafter.
We are very happy for families to arrange to pay this off or pay as a lump sum.
EMA recipients (School Share) covers the cost of these items.
School Council are providing another prize which will be won by one family who have paid their requisites & levy by the 1st of May. Each family paying by May 1st will be placed in a raffle draw for the prize. (EMA payment is accepted). The prize will be determined soon and advertised in the newsletter—last year we raffled three family vouchers to the “Zone”.

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK
For everyone to be more confident in what we do. Confidence is a key factor in becoming successful.

Doug Jones
Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL
The election of Junior School Councillors across the school has been finalised. A huge congratulations to the following students:-

Prep/1B - Grace W. & Riley P
1/2H - Declan R & Paige A
1/2S&W - Josh W & Grace N
1/2M&Y - Jackson E & Carly F
3/4C - Bailey B & David S
3/4G - Kayla R & Rikki W
3/4B - Dacoda M & Ebony W
3/4J - Cassandra M & Kye K
5/6B - Olivia H & Karley S
5/6M - Joel G & Amy P
5/6S - Jake K & Eleanor M

The Investiture to present our school leaders and Junior School Council to the school community will be held on Thursday 12th March starting at 2.15pm in the Multi-purpose room. All parents and friends are welcome. An afternoon tea will follow for visitors and Junior School Councillors.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT
On Wednesday 25th February the leadership team for 2009 went to Melbourne for a Leadership conference.
In session 1 we focused on being a leader and what a leader does and doesn’t have to be.
In session 2 we talked about balancing responsibilities and prioritising then we got some tips about public speaking. Some of them were – making eye contact, be yourself and introduce yourself.
We had an activity on loud noises. It was a break from all the hard work. We also played a few games and one of them was audience charades.
In session 3 we focused on what leaders should focus on.

WELLBEING NEWS
Help your children make sense of the natural bushfires disasters.
- Reassure children that they are safe
- Be available. Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel.
- Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television. Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.
- Support children’s concerns for others.
- Let them explore feelings beyond fear. Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions.
- Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish. eg. Finding simple ways to help.
- Be aware of your own actions. Children will take their cues from you.
- Take action yourself. Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hope.

Di Craig
Assistant Principal
**EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

Last week a note was sent home to all families indicating the procedure for an Emergency Evacuation of the school. In case some families missed the note from last week the following procedure will take place.

* Hopefully this plan will never need to be implemented.

**Stop or Go Procedure for Emergency Evacuation** (bush fires, floods, bomb threats).

On the advice of Emergency Services if the situation requires a whole school evacuation the following procedure will take place -

- All staff and students will be evacuated to a designated evacuation point (decided by Emergency Services).
- Parents should tune into FM ABC Radio (91.1 on the dial) for updated information.
- Parents may contact the school mobile on 0419 540 718.
- Parents should avoid coming up to the school putting themselves in danger.
- Children may be picked up at the Designated Evacuation Point (after consultation with the child’s teacher).

At present, Mr Brian Hoskin is assisting us in developing this program. Brian is employed at Eaglehawk Primary School to run the Stephanie Alexander program. We are indeed very lucky to have such a knowledgeable person to support us with this program. Thankyou to Ruth, Trevor and Mandy for their assistance and enthusiasm.

On Monday students in Grade 3/4 had a visit from Essendon footballer Brent Stanton. Brent spent time talking to the students about the importance of eating healthy foods, hydration, exercising regularly and what his life as an AFL footballer is like. He also spoke about setting goals and the importance of working hard to try and reach these goals.

Thankyou,
Judy, Natalie, Craig and Wendy

**Grade 5/6**

Our allotment of Netbooks has arrived at the school and we now await the support technicians to configure the computers to operate on the school network system. We are looking forward to using these Netbooks as tools to enhance student learning. A reminder that the first lease payment is to be paid by Friday, March 6th.

Our Grade 56 camp date is approaching quickly so please continue to maintain payment systems that have been opted for. This will be essential to the organization and operation of the camp so that all students can gain maximum benefit from the experience.

The school captains for 2009 have been active in the leading of school assembly and the student leadership team were able to learn skills at the Impact Leadership Conference in Melbourne.

Thank you
5/6 News Team

**PE NEWS**

Netball

A netball meeting for all players/parents will be held next Tuesday 10th March @ 3.20pm in the multi-purpose room.

Thanks
Corey

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Our school photos will be taken on the first day of term 2.
Cost will be between $16 and $33.
There are 6 different options to choose from. Forms will go home next week.
Payment will need to be made, with correct money in envelopes supplied, on or before the photo day.

**LINEN RAFFLE**

A quilt cover (on display at the school office) is being raffled with proceeds going to Specimen Hill PS fire victims. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for $1 available from the office.

Senior News

Grade 3/4

Students are enjoying participating in our Gardening Program on a weekly basis (weather permitting). This program is building on student's environmental knowledge and teaching them ways in which they can play a part in maintaining and improving the environment. The program complements our environmental unit that the Year Four students studied last year and the Year Three students will do next year.

This project is underpinned by VELS. This document is used to develop teaching programs across all Victorian schools. We are working towards making our school a more environmentally sustainable place and hopefully, this will help our students to grow up with a greater environmental awareness.

Our children’s future in the very best of
GET ACTIVE & HAVE FUN!
Take the Premier’s Active Families Challenge. It’s fun, it’s free and a great way to be healthy and active.
Take the Challenge!
Do 30 minutes of activity a day for 30 days between 8 March - 19 April 2009
Register:
Register online at goforyourlife.vic.gov.au or by completing and mailing registration forms (available from the school office) or by calling 1300 73 98 99. Registrations close 20 March 2009.
Register-get active-complete-be rewarded!

GARDEN GROUPS - DONATIONS
The Grade 3/4 Garden Groups are looking for donations of—2nd hand timber, straw, cow/sheep/horse manure, wire mesh, reinforced mesh.

WORKING BEE—reminder
Our first (and hopefully only) Working Bee for the year will be held on Saturday 14th March from 9am-12.30pm. We look forward to your help with a variety of jobs even if only for an hour or two. Please fill out and return the note that went home today so we can cater for lunch.

BOOKCLUB
Could all orders for Book Club issue 2 be back at school by Tuesday 17th March. Please seal ends of envelopes so money doesn't escape. Please fill in order forms carefully as subscription orders need a special coupon completed to order that item.
Thank you
Sandy

LOST PROPERTY
A reminder that our lost property is collected and left in the Multi Purpose room.
Please check names on your child’s clothing regularly. It is very easy to pick up a wrong item of uniform without realizing it.

LOST
A hat belonging to Georgina F in Prep/1B.
Also
A microfiber jacket size 6 with Kiet C on the label.

SCHOOL PAYMENTS - Eftpos
Eftpos is available at the school office. A charge of 1.46% will be added for any credit transactions.

SCHOOL WEB SITE - has a temporary problem so newsletters are not uploaded last/this week.
You can access school newsletters, permission notes, calendar of events and other information on our web site at http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au.

FREE Surplus to School’s needs - Minolta 1600 Fax machine in excellent condition.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE NEWS
After School Care operates from 3.15pm - 6.00pm
Please ring Rachel on 0414 068 475 for Bookings/Cancellations.
Please note that ASC is fully booked on Fridays unless a permanent booking cancels.

Program:
5th Mar. - Fruit / Craft: Paper Plate Faces
6th Mar. - Popcorn/ Movie
9th Mar. - Labour Day Holiday
10th Mar. - Icy Poles / Outside Play
11th Mar. - Fruit & Veg. Sticks / Craft: Personalised Placemats

Before School Care operates from 6.30am - 8.40am. Please ring Anika on 0438 062 561 for bookings

COMMUNITY NOTICES
VSL (Victorian School of Languages)
Opening Term 1 2009 - a new VSL language centre at Bendigo South East College, Curtin Street, Bendigo
Visit www.vsl.vic.edu.au for more information.

YMCA Holiday Program
Bookings will now be taken at: B Central in Mundy Street, Bendigo 5441 8200.
Look at www.bendigo.ymca.org.au to view the brochure for activities available as of 2nd March.

DANCE FOR DIVERSITY
Explore Korean and Indonesia dance and costume at the Gallery, 42 View Street, Bendigo
Workshop for adults and families 5-6.30pm 18th March.

MICROSOFT OFFICE
Save at least 75% on specially priced software for Government school students to use at home.