Dear Parents,

**WORKING BEE—Thanks!**

Thank you to the staff, parents & students who attended our first working bee for 2009 on Saturday 21st March. We completed, spreading of mulch behind the Multi as well as general gardening work. Thank you to all those who came along and helped us get these jobs done! Your contribution is appreciated and makes a difference to our school. A Special thank you to School Council President Mrs. Mandy Pickering for having everything so well organised! She was well supported by Mr. Trevor Humphreys. Thanks again to the families who were able to attend.

They were:
The Pickering family, Scholtes family, Rogers family, Ronchieri family, Baxter family, John Sheen & Trevor Humphreys. Also to: Mrs. Brown (yummy morning tea!)

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

On Monday night the Specimen Hill Primary School Council held their Annual Meeting. The Annual Report was discussed and approved then followed the election of office bearers for 2009. All members of School Council were thanked for their many contributions in 2008 and the work carried out to improve our school. We also thanked the executive for 2008.

The 2008 Executive was:
Mandy Pickering (President)
Wayne Sherriff (Vice President)
Narelle Waldron (Secretary)
David Bloomfield (Assistant Sec.)
Ken McWhae (Treasurer)

We thank these people for their leadership during 2008.

Special mention was made of retiring President Mrs. Mandy Pickering for the outstanding leadership she has provided the School Council over the past three years & her passion for the job! Unfortunately Mandy is now working for the Department of Education and is thus ineligible to be nominated for the position of President. Fortunately she is able to remain on School Council as an active member and we are pleased to have her as a member of staff.

All positions were then declared vacant and nominations were accepted for Executive positions - 2009.

**School Council Executive for 2009:**

- President - Wayne Sherriff
- Vice President - Trevor Humphreys
- Secretary - Narelle Waldron
- Assist. Secretary - Liz March
- Treasurer - Ken McWhae

Congratulations to all elected office bearers for 2009. I wish them the best and hope that all will support them throughout the year.

**NETBOOK PROGRAM**

The Year 5/6 area is still a buzz with their new Netbooks. Students are now becoming much more familiar with the netbook and the various software programs. This week they have been sharpening their skills in preparation for them to be taken home. The Year 6 students will start taking them home (daily) as soon as we have completed the orientation program. This will be next week—a date to be confirmed.

**KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRAM**

The schools vegetable garden and chicken coop are starting to produce and students have started cooking. The main produce at the moment are the eggs. A week ago one of the groups made pancakes and this week they have made lots of little quiches. I was very pleased to be able to sample the cooking!!

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008**

Our apologies for not getting the Annual Report for 2008 published and out to families last week. The Office copier broke down on Friday as we were trying to print them. A copy was sent home to all families on Monday 23rd March. This is a celebration of the 2008 school year. The Annual Reporting meeting was held Monday 23.03.09 at 6:30pm and the report was approved by School Council.
Dates to Remember…
Thurs 26 Mar - Leadership Investiture 2.15pm
Mon 30 Mar - Easter raffle tickets/money due
Wed 1 April - Easter Raffle drawn
Fri 3 April - Last day Term 1 — 2:15pm finish

Term 2
Mon 20 April - Start Term 2 — 2009
Mon 20 April - School Photos (1st day Back!)
Tues 21st, Thurs 23rd, Fri 24th April - Swimming Program
Mon 27-29 April - Year 5/6 Camp

STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards were presented - Monday 23 March to:
PG - Mitchell R
PQ - Jacob C
P/1B - Maxine C
1/2 H - Jayden AR
1/2 MY - Nicholas B
1/2 SW - Lara C
3/4B - Douglas D
3/4G - Jake LP
3/4GW - Bailey B
3/4J - Kody M
5/6B - Jake S
5/6M - Shelby S
5/6S - Isaiah W

Principal’s Award - Lucas P (3/4J)
After School Care Award - Becky S (5/6S)

Congratulations to all these students for their achievements & contributions

FUNDRAISING TARGET FOR TERM 1!
This Term we are raising funds to support the purchase of paint for the Artist in Residence program.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
A good feeling gets even better when shared.

Doug Jones
Principal

LEADERSHIP INVESTITURE
The Leadership Investiture of the school captains and Junior School Council members will take place tomorrow - Thursday 26th March at 2.15pm in the Multi Purpose Room.
All family members and friends are welcome to attend. An afternoon tea will follow in the staffroom for parents and friends of student leaders.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL
The Out of Uniform colour day last Friday was a great success. A total of $281.00 was raised with all money going towards the purchase of equipment for sandpit play.

Our children’s future in the very best of
**Education Maintenance Allowance**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for Semester 1 has been deposited into nominated accounts for those parents who elected to receive their Education Maintenance Allowance by EFT. If you have not received the EMA, could you please contact Kaye in the office. If you requested a cheque payment, or indicated you would like to use part of your EMA cheque for excursions etc, please call in to the school office. Those parents who requested the full amount of their EMA cheque to be used for excursion credits, camp etc. this cheque has been deposited into our school account and a receipt will be sent home with your child. Please remember to indicate on your permission forms when you would like to use your credit. Please call in to the office at any time to enquire about the balance remaining on your child’s excursion credit.

**CLASS NEWS**

**JUNIOR NEWS**

Swimming commences the first week back next term. Please ensure all clothing is labelled with your child’s name to make sure nothing is lost. Swimming will be on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during week 1 and week 3. The children in 1/2 have been working beautifully on their unit: ‘Uniquely Me’. They are preparing for a presentation next week.

Classroom are open from 8.45am. Teachers will be in their classrooms from this time to speak with parents and allow children to organise themselves ready for the day.

Julian Regan

**SENIOR NEWS**

Grade 3/4

Students enjoyed the wonderful magic tricks performed by Cosentino at our whole school incursion yesterday. We will have a further three incursions this year. If you have not yet sent permission notes and money, you may do so at any time. Please see the office if you have misplaced the note for a replacement.

Hard to believe the term is drawing to a close very quickly. It has been a very busy and productive term for all of the Year 3 and 4 students. In Integrated Studies we are looking at the different regions in Victoria and making decisions about where it would be good to live. Our vegetable garden is developing every week. If you have not seen it yet, please take the time to have a look. The program will help foster a sense of ownership of the school environment and hopefully, help to improve eating habits as well as attitudes towards the environment.

Thankyou,
Judy, Natalie, Craig and Wendy

Grade 5/6

A reminder that camp payments will need to be finalized by the end of next week. (April 3rd). Grade 6 students will be able to take Netbooks home as of next week after a short information after school session.

Tomorrow we will enjoy the investiture ceremony for school leadership. This will be in the Multi at 2:15pm. Please make sure all swimming arrangements and payments are made promptly to assist with the operation of the program next term.

Kim, our artist in residence, has taken classes to teach students skills they can use for the totem pole art work.

5/6 News Team

**PE NEWS**

**Netball News**

Draws for the Golden City Netball Associations competition will be available online from this weekend. They will also be published in the Bendigo Advertiser early next week. The competition begins on **Saturday, April 4th**.

Can all netball fees be paid at the school office prior to the first game.

**Umpires**- If anyone is interested in umpiring for our school netball teams please contact Corey at school. Umpires must hold qualifications.

**Swimming**

Swimming begins first week back in Term 2. Please ensure all clothes/goggles are clearly named.

Please return permission forms before the end of Term 1. Forms are to be handed in to the classroom teacher.

Corey Warne

---

**KEYBOARD LESSONS**

New Enrolments are currently being accepted for Term 2, 2009. At only $10.90 (incl. GST) per lesson, this keyboard music program is **Great Value!!**

Enrolment forms are available from keyboard music teacher(s), the school office or you can enrol electronically on our website – [www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au](http://www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au),

**Small Reminder**

Re-enrolment from one term to the next (including from one year to the next) is automatic so, once enrolled, you **don’t** need to send in a new enrolment form each term in order to continue.

**If at any stage you wish to cancel:** Written advice to that effect must be mailed or faxed to PMI at the above address/fax number at least two weeks prior to the start of any given term in order to avoid incurring the next term’s fees. (Please note: It is not sufficient for this advice to be communicated to the school or keyboard teacher).

The Primary Music Institute wishes all families a safe and musical holiday!!!
PERFORMING ARTS - performance for the year
May 6 Wednesday 9.30am Sticks & Stones
July 23 Thursday 11.30am Music Is Fun Band
Nov 13 Friday TBA Shake, Rhubarb & Roll
Julian Regan (Arts co-ordinator)

SCHOOL PHOTOS - reminder
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. Envelopes/forms went home last week. Family envelopes are available from the office. Payment will need to be made, with correct money in envelopes supplied, on or before the photo day.

CHOCOLATE/EASTER FUNDRAISER
Donations of Easter eggs etc. are urgently needed for our Easter Raffle. Please leave these at the office. Raffle tickets and money need to be returned next Monday, raffle to be drawn Wednesday 1st April.

LORRAINE LEE LINEN
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.

CHOCOLATE/EASTER FUNDRAISER
Donations of Easter eggs etc. are urgently needed for our Easter Raffle. Please leave these at the office. Raffle tickets and money need to be returned next Monday, raffle to be drawn Wednesday 1st April.

LORRAINE LEE LINEN
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.

Lorraine Lee Linen Party to be held Tuesday 31st March at 11.30am in the Multi. All invited.

LOST
Last Friday 20th a black tortoiseshell cat named Zoi (de-sexed female) went missing from the Hicks-Hobgen home. Please ring Rosz on 54442152/0420276327 if you have seen her.

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:
19th Mar. - Fruit & Jelly / Group Games
20th Mar. - Popcorn/ Movie
23rd Mar. - Fruit / Craft: ‘Me’ Collages
24th Mar. - Rice Snacks & Dip / Computer Activities
25th Mar. - Fruit Platter / Craft: I am Special

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

CANTEEN NEWS
AFTER LUNCH SALES
Products available – Drinks, Ice Creams, Frozen Yoghurt, Icy Poles, Slushies, Ginger Bread People, Chips and Popcorn.
Items are priced from $1.70 and below. At the start of term 2 a price list will be sent home.
Tricia Ryan (Canteen Manager)

UNIFORM NEWS
There are some second hand uniforms available free. These will be in the staffroom to look through at anytime.
Uniform shop hours are:
Monday to Wednesday 8.45am - 12.30pm

COMMUNITY NOTICES
‘Hook into Hockey’ Central Victorian Hockey Association (CVHA) Beginner/Junior Hockey Program
If you are aged 6 – 12, come and be part of this great introductory program to hockey. Get great coaching tips and receive your own hockey kit including stick, shin pads and ball (byo mouth guard).
When: Each Sat morning 9.30 – 10.15am
Sat 2nd May to Sat 13th June (excl. June I/wknd)
Where: Bendigo Hockey Complex, Garden Gully Reserve, Ashley St, Ironbark
Cost: $55.00 (Payable on registration Day 1)
Reduced fee may apply if you have your own gear
To register, please call: Kerri on 5449 3527
Or email cvha.hookin2hockey@yahoo.com.au
Or download a registration form from www.cvha.org.au/Development.html
If you are a parent who is willing to lend a hand at sessions (non-hockey players welcome), please let Kerri know!
Numbers are limited so book early.
For more information, CVHA: www.cvha.org.au

HUGE BABY & KIDS SALE
Saturday 2nd May 9am-1pm @ YMCA Stadium 45 Mundy St. Gold coin donations to the Bendigo Bushfire Appeal.
Book a stall now from $20 per site. Call Kate Tinker 5444 5667 or BCTL 5441 3180

Our children’s future in the very best of