Dear Parents,

SUPPORT STAFF WEEK!
This week is ESS week - ESS stands for ‘Education Support Staff’.
We celebrate the great work that all our ESS’s do in the classroom, Out of School Hours Care and in Administration—every school day.

Profiles:
Kaye Blackley - Kaye is our excellent school Office Manager. She manages things like—the school accounts, the facilities inspections and tradespeople to fix things, the first aid supplies, the human resource programs as well as supporting many other school programs such as Out of School Hours Care & of course (me) the principal and the staff.

Val Quinlan - Val supports Kaye in the school office and is responsible for publishing the newsletter, coordinating the uniform shop & keeping our Web site up to date.

Leah Johns - Leah works in classrooms supporting students & their teachers. She also supports After School Care students. Recently Leah took on Rachel’s role as coordinator while she was on leave.

Karen Emerson - Karen works in classrooms supporting students & their teachers. She also supports After School Care students.

Rachel Frappell - Rachel is the coordinator of all after school care. She organises all of the activities and supervision. (That is, Before & After School Care).

Anika Blackley - Anika works each morning providing activities and supervision for Before School Care.

Trevor Meehan - Trevor works in classrooms supporting students & their teachers. He also supports After School Care students, runs the gem stone club and supervises the Free Fruit program.

Mandy Pickering - Mandy works in classrooms supporting students & their teachers. She also provides inspiration for the Vegetable garden program.

Ruth East - Ruth works in classrooms supporting students & their teachers. Louise Smith - Louise works in classrooms supporting students & their teachers. Especially follow up with speech therapist visits.

Their roles cross over many other areas of the school—such as sporting carnivals, choir support, special gym, school camps & excursions. We are lucky to have such multi talented people!

Please find time to thank them personally for the work they do.

SOLAR POWER
Our school Solar Power System is now fully functional. Last week the reversing meters were installed as the last stage of our solar power system. We are now able to use the 6.3kw system to generate our own power and sell any excess to the ‘grid’. We are also on the world wide web @ www.sunskool.com/school/ specimenhillps.aspx

MASTER PLANNING
Thank you to all the community members (staff, students and parents) who put their dots on our wish list. Great to have everyone’s ideas. The School Council sub committee of ‘Physical Environment' looked at the areas considering those with most dots. Now we have a plan to send us forward for the next few years.

One area that parents identified was parking. This is a little out of our hands but we will continue to pressure the Bendigo City Council on the matter. (School Council has raised it a number of times!). Some people may not be aware that the access trade at the back of the school has been upgraded thus picking your child up in Henderson Street (off Chum) may be another option.

THANKS
Thanks again to Maria Humphreys who has continued to weed the garden beds at the front of the school. They are looking great!
STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards were presented Monday 10 August to:
PG - Darcy R
PQ - Zak O
P/1B - Blake B
1/2 H - Dylan C
1/2 MY - Aiden K
1/2 SW - Connor S
3/4B - Caleb M
3/4C - Kayley S
3/4G - Caleb E
3/4J - Kye K
5/6B - Tahlia G
5/6M - Alex HH
5/6S - Shaniah C

After School Care Award - Paris S (3/4G)

Congratulations to all these students for their achievements & contributions

ENROLMENTS (PREP 2010)
We have sent letters home to parents informing them of their child's place at Speci for 2010. This year we still have room for a few more Preps starting next year. Please pass this information onto any of your friends/relatives who have a child starting in 2010.
I welcome the opportunity to meet any parents to discuss our school, the questions you may have and also provide you with a tour.
Phone 54 435 353 for an appointment.

Dates to Remember...
Mon 17 Aug - School Council
Sat 22 Aug - Tournament of the Minds
Mon/Fri 24-28 Aug - Book Week—Book Safari
Sun 29 Aug - Advanced unicyclists event
Mon 31 Aug - P/1/2—Incursion “Animals on the Move’
Mon/Fri 31Aug/4Sept- Literacy & Numeracy Week
Tues/Wed 8/9 Sept - Year 5/6 Production
Mon 14 Sept - School Council
Fri 18 Sept - Last day Term 3

KEEP US UPDATED!
Have you changed address, phone numbers (especially mobile phones) or your occupation?
If so, we need to know this information ASAP. Please send a note along or come into the school office so we can update this information on our system.

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK
To be more organised in everything we do. Organisation is a skill which helps people to become successful.

Doug Jones
Principal

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Information on student scholarships which the Department of Education and Early Childhood advertises but does not administer.

All scholarships can now be viewed on the scholarships website at www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships and online scholarship applications will be accepted commencing in late November 2009.

FATHERS DAY STALL
We will be holding our Fathers’ Day Stall in 4 weeks time which will be Friday 4th September.
We are seeking suitable donations (all items must be new). All gifts can be placed on the table at the front of the office.

Gift suggestions:
- Car cleaning products
- Boxed/bagged lollies and chocolates
- Diaries / pens
- Socks
- Hankies
- Tool kits
- Mugs

Reject and $2 shops are a great source of items.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER
Money and unsold chocolates need to be back at school by Monday 17th August. When you have returned your money, you will be able to collect another box to sell.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM
- Tomorrow for an 8.15am start in the Multi Purpose Room. All children must arrive at the program by 8.30am.
- Only children who have already returned their permission slips can attend.

SCHOOL FAIR
Friday November 20th - 4pm to 6:30pm.
- Calling all parents, grandparents and friends. If you are able to help out with items or providing a service that could help us with the school fair could you please fill out the slip below or contact Di Craig at school

Ways you could help
- Woodwork skills
- Sewing to make aprons, embroidered towels/face washers/headbands/baby clothes
- Jewellery
- Paper/crafts - cards, tags, note books
- Any other craft skills such as frames, soap, bath bombs, candles
- Gardening - potting up cuttings, seeds/seedlings
- Gardening produce
- Decorated pots
- Knitting / crocheting

If you are able to donate any supplies / materials or equipment that would be greatly appreciated.
Otherwise the school can supply materials for you to use. Other support that we will be requiring closer to the date will be:

- Gourmet cakes/slices
- Assistance with operating stalls

Thankyou for your support.
Di Craig (Fair Committee)

CLASS NEWS

JUNIOR NEWS
Children in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 will be very excited on Monday 31st August. ‘Animals on the Move’ will be visiting Specimen Hill Primary School. ‘Animals on the Move’ is an educational experience where the animals come to us. This will replace our major excursion to the Melbourne Zoo for this year. The children will have the opportunity to visit the Farmyard Display and the Bush Babies Native animal Display for an educational session and a play. In the Farmyard they can not only touch and feed the animals but also learn about the features of each one and their use in our society. Animals in the Farmyard include: calf, lambs, goats, piglets, chickens, rooster, hens, duck, ducklings, goose, turkey, rabbits and guinea pigs. The unique Bush Babies wildlife animal display provides the opportunity for close viewing of a range of Australian native animals. In this display the children learn about survival in the wild, shelters and habitats, feathers and fur. Native animals in the display include: wombat, wallaby, ring tail possum, brush tail possum, sugar glider, native birds, water dragon, blue tongue lizard, snake and turtle. Notes will go home today and must be returned with payment by Wednesday 27th August. We can’t wait to see all the animals.

Corey, Jenny, Julian, Julie, Katie, Lisa, Sandy, Teresa

SENIOR NEWS
Grade 3/4
We have been fortunate enough to work with language consultant, Alison Davis over the last week. Alison emphasised the importance of children practising their reading at home on a regular basis. There are two aspects to reading. Firstly, being able to read the words on the page and secondly being able to understand what you have read. If a child is struggling with decoding the text, then their understanding of what they have read will suffer. The aim of home reading is not to have students work on their decoding skills, but rather to assist them to become fluent and thinking readers. At school we say to students that they should make their reading sound like talking. This is fluency which reflects a child’s ability to read texts. In Years 3 and 4 students are mostly working on becoming thinking readers. That is, improving their understanding of what they have read. Discussing with your child what they have read is the tool that you can use to assist them with understanding. Students do not need to read texts that have unknown words for them to be practising their reading skills. Home readers do not need to be difficult to be helping students with their reading skills. Understanding what we have read is the most important thing.

Our Come Fly With Me unit is continuing. Students will be completing many science experiments on flight in this unit. It will be followed by an incursion run by Lore of Flight. A former air force pilot presents the incursion and demonstrates the principles of flight to students in a fun and engaging way to students. Something students and teachers will be looking forward to.

Wendy, Craig, Natalie, Judy

Grade 5/6
Grade 5/6S have completed their first trading session for their businesses. The children are also learning to use cheque books which relate to that topic.

Today Bunnings have come to the school to teach students how to make toolboxes. Have a great week.

Jessikah S and Maddison R

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

MS READATHON
A big thank you to the families and friends of our Specimen Hill Primary School participants who have sponsored their reading during the 30th year of the MS Readathon!

As Specimen Hill Primary School students begin to close their books on this year’s program it is nearing time to return sponsorship funds and collect their hard-earned certificate and reading rewards. With an official money-due date of August 31st, the fastest way to return sponsorship is online with the help of mum or dad. Students can also return the Completion Form (which they received in the post recently) and any receipt books sent to them. If you have misplaced your form, a replacement can be downloaded from www.msreadathon.org.au or call 1300 677 323 to speak to the State Office.

The official money-due date is August 31st; however, there is still plenty of time to complete your 30 day reading.

Sandy Young, Librarian

PERFORMING ARTS
Years 5&6 will be presenting their major work ‘Suburban Circus’ this term on the evenings of Tuesday 8th September and Wednesday 9th September. Yes they are performing twice. This is a spectacle not to be missed. Tickets will be available from the office from Monday at the amazing price of $5 per ticket –
same price for all. Get in early as numbers are limited for each night.

Julian Regan

EGGS FOR SALE
$2.50 per dozen available from the school office.

LOST
A 2009 Grade 6 Polo Shirt—size 14 with R. Cachia on the label.

PLEASE NOTE: Media Permission notes have been re-sent due to returned notes being misplaced. Only those who DO NOT wish names to be published need to sign and return to school. We apologise for this inconvenience.

SPECI SHOPPING TOUR
Saturday 10th October
Cost $55.00
Hurry and book a seat. Bring along your friends/family and have a great day out. A $20.00 deposit is required.

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 now has bookings available on Fridays.

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

UNIFORM SHOP
Hours: Monday and Tuesday mornings 8.45am to 12 noon and all day Wednesday.
Uniform shop is fully stocked with winter uniform items including polar fleece vests & beanies.
Sale Items: Girls pleated shorts sizes 4 to 10 for $8; Windcheater w/- side split sizes 8 to 14 for $14. Girls pleated gabardine trousers sizes 6 to 16 for $10.
Uniform Order Forms are available from the office.

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATES
We require a “School entry Immunisation Certificate for your child (letters have gone home today to those families concerned)

CANTEEN DUTY:
13th Aug. - Tricia, Carol & Martine
17th Aug—Tricia
20th Aug—Tricia, Margaret, Cheryl

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
The Speci Newsletter is available on our web site at—

CANTEEN
THE CANTEEN WILL NOT BE OPEN AT AFTERNOON RECESS ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS OR FRIDAYS DURING TERM 3 DUE TO DECREASED SALES

COMMUNITY NOTICES
2009 MEN’S HEALTH WEEK
A ‘Calendar of Events’ starting 29th August to 5th September.
For more information phone Bendigo Community Health Services on 5434 4330 or call at the school office for a pamphlet.
It’s On Again

Speci Hill Shopping Tour
Once again Grade 1/2 S/W in conjunction with Bu is running the shopping tour as part of the schools fundraising program.

Why not join us for a day of fun and bargain hunting?

Includes
- Bus trip to Melbourne.
- A full day guided tour to approx. 12 factory outlets.
- Great discounts.
- Morning and afternoon teas – delicious homemade cakes and slices.
- 2 course lunch at a hotel with a glass of wine or soft drink plus tea or coffee.
- Free raffle- lots of prizes.
- Good company and lots of fun.

Date: Saturday Oct 10th, 2009
Cost: $55.00

Why not pay it off? Just a few dollars a month and you will be able to have a great day out, loads of fun and take advantage of bargain prices at factory outlets.

See Mrs Smart, Kaye at the office Or Bu Turpie in the Art room