Welcome to students, families and friends to week 4 of Term 1.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
In the last Newsletter I mentioned that the Expression of Interest forms for hosting a Chinese student from May to June this year can be collected from the front Office desk from 15th Feb onwards. This form is only an expression of interest but may give you more information about the program. The due date for forms to be returned was today (23rd Feb) but I have decided to extend it until Friday 25th Feb. Thank you to all of the families who have returned forms so far.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION
The School Council election process for 2011 was completed last week. The process did not require a ballot as the number of parents and DEECD members nominated matched the number required. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the following parents and staff who have volunteered their time to assist in the area of School Governance.

Parents: Wendy White, Dean Stewart, Mark Snell and Liz March.
Staff Reps: Wendy Jackson and Corey Warne.

The four parent reps were renominated as they had been the outgoing members from a previous 2 year term. I thank them sincerely for their contribution to Council and to the Specimen Hill community. Their time, expertise and effort towards school governance is greatly appreciated. I wish them well in their new tenure from 2011 to 2013.

I would also like to sincerely thank the 2 outgoing staff reps in Sally Brown and Kylie Gould. Both Sally and Kylie have given their time freely to assist the school on Council which is appreciated. They will still be active members of our Council Sub Committees.

WHOOPING COUGH
We have another case of whooping cough diagnosed in the school community. This is highly contagious. Any child showing symptoms or has been diagnosed must stay at home for the nominated period of time.

HOME READING
It is wonderful to see the improvement in attitude by students across the school towards home reading. 20 minutes of reading each night has a huge impact on a child’s oral language as well as comprehension, interest levels, general knowledge, written language and enjoyment of literature. We value your support in this by signing the reading diaries each night and engaging in the text with your child by asking a few questions about what they have read.

CRUSOE COLLEGE HAPPENINGS
Each week in the Newsletter there will be an article about the happenings at Crusoe College. The feeder schools who have students going onto Crusoe in year 7 are part of the ‘Step up to Crusoe’ program. This program is aimed at strengthening the transition program between the schools and assisting families in their knowledge and understanding of Crusoe College before their child actually attends. I look forward to any feedback from the information shared.

Step Up to Crusoe: Snippets from What’s happening at Crusoe.

- Year 7 students are attending a 3 day camp based on getting to know each other.
- Staff are focussing on a Crusoe learning model in teaching. Teachers are clearly explaining the focus of the lesson, what is to be taught and the skills to be learnt.
- The whole school operates in a team teaching style of teaching focussing on learning in a collaborative environment. This enables support to individuals as well as optimising learning opportunities for all students.

BOX OF TISSUES
Could all students please provide a box of tissues to be handed in to their class teacher for whole class use. All children have runny noses at some time and this enables a ready supply throughout the year.

PERSONAL PROPERTY
We discourage children bringing along personal property eg special toys, mobile phones etc to school. The school can not take responsibility for any items which may disappear or are broken. If they are brought...
to school they must be handed to the teacher for safe keeping.
Thank you for strengthening the home/school partnership in your child’s learning journey.

Dates to Remember…
Fri 25 Feb - Gr.5/6 Netbook Info. Session 9am or
Mon 28 Feb - Gr.5/6 Netbook Info. Session 7pm
Wed 2 Mar - Parents Club meeting 9am
- Parent Teacher information interviews
Fri 4 Mar - Junior School Council Investiture
Mon 7 Mar - School Council meeting
Mon 14 Mar - Labour Day Holiday
Tues 21 Mar - Swimming program starts Prep-6
6-8 Apr - Grade 5/6 Camp
Fri 8 Apr - Last day Term 1

STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards were presented on Monday 21st February to:

Rm. 1 - Abbey O & Mitchell C
Rm. 2 - Keely P
Rm. 5 - Rhiannon D
Rm. 6 - Tyler R
Rm. 7 - Jordan H
Rm. 8 - Riley P
Rm. 9 - Tara S & Keeley T
Rm. 10 - Victoria L
Rm. 11 - Kiet C
Rm. 12 - Dylan M
Rm. 13 - Keira L

Art Award—Trinity F

Di Craig
(Acting Principal)

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
Forms must be at the school office by 28th February
Parents eligible to receive the EMA must fill out the appropriate paperwork and return it to the school office after presenting current evidence (as at 1st February 2011) of eligibility.

Instalment 1
- Parent share $80.50
- School share $80.50

Instalment 2
- Parent share $34.50
- School share $34.50

The school’s share is used to cover your child’s school fees and the balance goes towards your child’s excursion levy.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE (mobile, home or work) NUMBER?
If you have changed your address or phone number - WE NEED TO KNOW! Please see Kaye or Val at the school office or call 54 435 353. Thanks for your support with this matter.

BOOKS & REQUISITES PAYMENT—reminder
A reminder to parents about the schools Books and Requisites payment for 2011.
This fee pays for the books we purchase on your behalf for each student, at a cost of $100.00.
We request that each family contributes a voluntary $40.00. This amount will support the continued development of our grounds & upgrading school learning programs.

Thus the amount owing to the school is:
$140.00 for the first child and
$100.00 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 $115.00) have these fees partly covered.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL INVESTITURE
Junior school councilors will be given their badges at an investiture to be held Friday 4th March at 2.15. An afternoon tea will be held afterwards.
Parents are most welcome to attend.

WELLBEING NEWS
PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE PROGRAM
This week there has been students found to have live head lice. Parents of these students will be notified to collect their child for treatment.
Can parents be vigilant in making sure all children with long hair have it tied up.

A reminder that parents need to be checking their child’s hair regularly (every night if possible). Early detection is one of the key factors in treating lice outbreaks and preventing them from spreading. There is a lot of information of the net that may prove helpful. Just do a google search.

We are still seeking parents interested in assisting with this highly valued program. The program runs fortnightly. Please fill out the form below and return to school if you can assist in any way.

PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE PROGRAM
Name: 
…………………………………………………
Student: …………………………………
Grade ……….
I am able to assist with the program on -
[ ] Wednesday [ ] Thursday
[ ] Friday
CLASS NEWS

Senior Department News
The Netbook program in the senior school is now underway and all students should have access to a Netbook at school. There are always a few initial difficulties with setup so please be patient as we attend to these issues. This week all 4/5 and 5/6 Grades will have registered for Ultranet use and we are planning to register the 3/4's in the near future. Please keep the camp in mind and discuss with your child the collection of necessary items as this can be a great learning experience as they take responsibility for some of the organization. More information will be sent home soon. A note has been sent home regarding Netbook Information Session attendance. Please read all information carefully before attending one of the sessions with your child. Also please endeavour to attend the Student Information Interviews Wednesday, March 2nd. A reminder that all students are to commit to home reading each day for at least 20-30 minutes. Could parents/caregivers please sign the reading log.

5/6 News Team

Middle Department News
Students enjoyed their first cooking session for the year last week. They made zucchini and basil soup, accompanied by cheese damper. It was fantastic to see the students eating the soup with enjoyment and asking for second helpings. A big thank you to Ruth, one of our fabulous aides who plays a major role in organising and running the gardening program. A reminder that students require a named plastic bowl and spoon for the program. Please take the time to come and meet with us next Wednesday in our Introduce Your Child Sessions. Interviews are only ten minutes, but this is a time that helps us to get to know your child and alerts us to any concerns that you might have regarding your child. This is not a formal reporting time, but rather an informal chat. Keep up the home reading. Teachers are closely monitoring students diaries, with the expectation of at least twenty minutes of reading happening five nights a week.

Leah Backas, Lisa Maxwell, Wendy Jackson, Sandy Young and Hayden Polglase

Junior Department News
Prep
Preps are starting their first full week of school next week and we will enjoy having them in our playground on a Wednesday at last. Our Library day is on Monday. If all children can bring their books and library bags on Mondays this would be wonderful. There are Wow beads for children who do this. Don’t forget to pack Brain food and a water bottle each day to help with your children’s learning. Natalie & Kim

Grade 1/2
Children in Grade 1/2 have settled in well to the routines in their new classes. We have been working on writing recounts. Children write about their weekends and what they have been doing in their Investigations time. Recounts should include details of where, who and when as a sequence of events and a personal comment at the end. They are learning to use punctuation, especially full stops and capital letters. We are very impressed with the number of children that are reading each night at home and having their journal filled in. We are grateful for parent support in encouraging their children. At school, children participate in guided reading sessions and shared reading as well as independent reading. In maths, children are participating in a lot of counting activities. These include using calculators for repetitive addition and making number patterns on a 100 board. They have been measuring length with streamers and paddlepop sticks and wool. We are looking forward to meeting with parents next week. Please return your time preference if you haven’t already done so. If your child didn't bring a form home let us know.

Prep-2 Team

GENERAL NEWS

SWIMMING PROGRAM
Permission notes went home yesterday. Please note cost is $47 not $43 as per 2011 School Payment note (approximate cost). Dates: 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th & 30th March.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Speci Healthy Breakfast program next Wednesday 2nd March. All children are welcome to attend. Time: 8.15 to 8.45 - children must be in the MPR by 8.30 Where: Multi Purpose Room What: Cereal, toast, juice, fruit.

Teresa Smart
LIBRARY NEWS—reminder
Library will be open at 8.45 to 9am each morning for students to change Library books.
We would encourage all children to take up borrowing books from our Library.
All children will require a Library bag which are available from Mrs Young for $2.00, or you may use a shopping bag or pillow case to protect our books. Anyone finding books at home from last year please return ASAP. All books gratefully received.
Grade 1/2 will change their books on a Wednesday if parents could assist children in having their Library bag and book at school EVERY Wednesday.
Grade 3/4 will have Library Tuesday.
Borrowing will also be available on Monday and Wednesdays at lunchtime if children visit the Library during recess.
Thanks
Sandy

LOST PROPERTY
We are still finding items of uniform in the lost property box unnamed. Could parents please name all uniform items.
Also could parents please check any clothing brought home in school bags in case your child has picked up someone else’s clothing.

LOST
One Micro jacket with Kurtis Liszka name on it. This does not seem to be at school. Once again please check your child’s clothing to make sure this hasn’t been picked up by mistake.
Also lost one pair of micro fibre trousers.
If found please leave at the office.

CANTEEN NEWS
Canteen lunches are on Monday & Fridays. Please have order written on brown paper bag (20c extra if school supplies) with money enclosed and handed in to the classroom tub at 9am.
A note was sent home regarding purchase of lunch wallets. These need to be returned asap if you would like one.
Please note that there are no 375ml Honeycomb milks available.
After Lunch Sales has commenced—Tuesday & Thursday—not Wednesday.
We are still after canteen helpers. If you are able to volunteer some time please fill out the form below.

UNIFORM SHOP
S/S polo shirts have arrived. Art smocks and shorts are also in supply. Just waiting on vests which should arrive next week.
Uniform Shop hours—8.30-12.30 Mon. & Tues. and all day Wed.

NEWSLETTERS are available from our website http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands………………

For your information

HOME ROOMS

Room 1 - Kylie Gould & Julie Quinlan - Gr. 1/2
Room 2 - Teresa Smart & Julie Quinlan - Gr. 1/2
Room 3 - Natalie Gleeson - Gr. Prep
Room 4 - Kim Manley - Gr. Prep
Room 5 - Katie Heard - Gr. 5/6
Room 6 - Scott Pysing - Gr. 5/6
Room 7 - Allan Sing - Gr. 5/6
Room 8 - Wendy Jackson & Sandy Young - Gr. 3/4
Room 9 - Leah Backas - Gr. 3/4
Room 10 - Lorraine Campbell - Gr. 4/5
Room 11 - Lisa Maxwell - Gr. 3/4
Room 12 - Jenny Ball - Gr. 1/2
Room 13 - Jacqui O’Shea - Gr. 1/2

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

ASHC Phone No. 0447 788 636. Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations. Accounts have gone home and need to be paid asap.

Thurs 24th Feb. - Fruit Platter Picnic / Free play on the oval, etc.
Fri 25th Feb. - Popcorn / Movie Night
Mon 28th Feb. - Saladas / Art & Craft
Tues 1st Mar. - Fruit & Yoghurt, Juice / Music games and activities
Wed 2nd Mar. - Pancakes & Cordial / Craft

BSHC Phone No. 0438 062 561. Please ring Danika for bookings/cancellations. Victoria Daniels will the BSC program co-ordinator starting next Monday. Thank you to Danika for her contribution to Speci ? BSC.

Dear Parents
Leah Johns and Karen Emerson are studying for a Certificate in Childrens’ Services and a Diploma in Childrens’ Services respectively, through the Victorian Training Group (VTG).
As part of these studies we are required to make observations of the children in various activities and provide narratives and evaluations of our findings. At times we are also expected to provide photographic evidence.
Children’s surnames will not be used under any circumstances and the schools policy of confidentiality will always be observed and respected.
We will not provide photos of children for whom permission has not been granted through the school’s authorisation process.
If you do not wish to have your child’s images provided to our Training group in the process of our studies or you have any queries at all please do not hesitate to speak to Leah or Karen at After School Care or contact the school office.

FOR SALE

CHOCOLATE FROGS

EVERY WEDNESDAY

END OF SCHOOL DAY

FOR $1.00

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FFV CENTRAL TO CONDUCT GIRLS ONLY COMPETITION

FFV Central is please to announce the creation of a 6 a-side Girls Only Competition - Mini Matildas
Under 9s & Under 12s
Loddonderry Reserve (Behind Girton)
$25 per player
Games run from 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Monday 28 February to Monday 8 April
Enter a team or as individuals by Wednesday 23 February
To register or for more inquiries contact Brock Rogers on 5439 4999 or brogers@footballfedvic.com.au

AFTER SCHOOL TUITION AND HOMEWORK HELP

The Kangaroo Flat Community Centre provides tuition for Prep to Year 10 students who need assistance with reading, spelling, English and maths. Financial help may be available to students who qualify. For information call the office on 5447 9687 during business hours to leave a message or phone Michael directly on 0413 116 096.

EAGLEHAWK SOCCER CLUB

Eaglehawk Soccer Club is holding registration night for junior players (Under 6 to Under 16) on Wednesday February 23rd (tonight), 2011 from 6pm to 7:30pm. Eaglehawk club rooms, Murdoch St California Gully. Further details www.eaglehawsoccerclub.com.au or call Tim 0418 590 928 after 4pm.

WHAT OUT!!

WORKING BEE COMING UP SOON

Time and date to be announced.

FOR SALE

CHOCOLATE FROGS

EVERY WEDNESDAY

END OF SCHOOL DAY

FOR $1.00

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