Welcome to students, families and friends to week 7 of Term 1.

SCHOOL REVIEW
This year is our year of School Review. This occurs every 4 years and its main purpose is:

1. An opportunity to reflect on the school’s achievements, the strengths and areas where improvement is needed.
2. The opportunity for the school to set the school’s new strategic direction for the next 4 years.

The whole plan is for evaluation to occur then new planning to take place which is critical for the school’s continued success of improving outcomes for our students. The process involves the whole school community including students, staff, parents and the wider community. The Review provides an opportunity for the school community to provide feedback which may be in the form of the completion of surveys and written or verbal comments. This is an exciting process where everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback and to contribute to the school’s future direction.

Next week there will be further information in relation to how families can participate in this process. I hope that many people share their thoughts, feelings and experiences which will all contribute to the total ‘picture’ of our school.

HOME READING
I have been visiting classrooms and catching up with students during their Literacy sessions throughout the day. I am very pleased with the regular home reading which is taking place. For all students, exposure to different texts is important for each child’s thinking and learning. Children should be reading consistently whether it be their take home readers, accessing the school Library (a fabulous resource!) as well as home books, magazines, newspapers, fact and fictional text and print on line. Parents monitoring each child’s reading provides an opportunity to support students before complete reading independence takes place. Maintaining the focus and high level of interest in reading and literacy will instil positive behaviours and improvement for all students.

SWIMMING PROGRAM
This week students will be participating in the swimming program. The school community is very fortunate to be part of this program as most schools no longer offer it to their students. The focus of the swimming program is on survival, safety and water awareness. Improved ability in technique is secondary to survival and thinking and operating smartly and safely in the water.

FREE FRUIT DAY
Wednesdays continue to be our school’s Free Fruit day. Mrs. Harbour and a group of students cut up the fruit which is then distributed on trays to each classroom. The fruit is taken to classrooms at 1.15 so children have the opportunity to eat fruit during the session before going out to afternoon play at 1.45. This is a wonderful program providing a wide range of fruits for every student in the school. Thank you to Mrs Harbour for her assistance with this program.

Step up to Crusoe News: On Monday 28th March, The Principal of Crusoe College, Mr Ben Johnstone –McLeod will be visiting the school to speak to Grade 6 students and their parents about Crusoe. Ben will answer any questions and concerns related to secondary school. This is a great opportunity to help you to be fully informed and with your decisions for secondary school in 2012.

VALUE—RESPECT
Our value for this fortnight continues to be respect. I have noticed that most children are focussing on their school values in respect to their attitudes and behaviour towards staff and other students. All values start in the home well before children begin school. It is the school environment which continues to expand upon, to closely monitor and to help instil these values in our students.

WORKING BEE
If any parents, family or friends are available to attend the working bee on Sunday it would be greatly appreciated. Mrs Brown promises to have loads of fun things and pizza for all who participate. Your assistance contributes towards a safer and more pleasant environment for our students.

Thank you for strengthening the home/school partnership in your child’s learning journey.

Di Craig (Acting Principal)
Dates to Remember…
Thurs 17 Mar - Tupperware Party 10:15-11:30am
Sun 20 Mar - Working Bee 10am-1pm
Mon 21 Mar - Swimming program starts Prep-6
Thur 31 Mar - School Disco for Preps to Grades 6
Mon 4 April - School Council meeting
  6-8 Apr - Grade 5/6 Camp
Fri 8 Apr - Last day Term 1

STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards will be presented next Monday.

NO CANTEEN
MONDAY
21ST & 28TH MARCH DUE TO SWIMMING PROGRAM

HEALTHY EATING
Healthy eating has a long-lasting and positive impact on a child’s growth, development and health.
Foods eaten by your child at school contribute greatly to their daily nutrient intake. These foods considerably influence their eating habits, growth patterns, energy, concentration levels and ability to learn.
You have an important role to play in helping to ensure your child eats well and stays active.
Healthy school lunch ideas include:
- Sandwiches or pita bread with cheese, lean meat or salad, cheese slices, crackers with spread and fresh fruit washed and cut up raw vegetables or fresh fruits
- Frozen water or milk, particularly in hot weather
- Highly processed, sugary, fatty and salty foods should only make up a very small part of your child’s diet.

Foods to limit in school lunches include:
- Processed meats such as salami and pressed chicken chips, chips, sweet biscuits, muesli and breakfast bars, fruit bars and fruit stripes, cordials, juices containing sugar and soft drinks.

You must let your child’s school principal know if your child is allergic to particular foods.

ATTENDANCE
In Victoria, education is compulsory for children aged between 6 and 17. When children are enrolled, it is expected they will attend school every day of each term.
It is important that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age, from the time they are enrolled in a pre-school.
Children and students who regularly miss days of school are at risk of missing out on learning the basic building block in subjects, and may experience long term difficulties with their learning.
School attendance helps children develop social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communications skills and healthy self-esteem.
If you have concerns about your child’s attendance contact the school.

‘NAMING IT’ - A Guide For Parents
You may have heard your child talking about ‘NAMING IT’ or read about it in the school newsletter.
‘NAMING IT’ is a key component of your school’s anti-bullying policy.
‘NAMING IT’ is an approach that encourages the victim of bullying to stand up for themselves in a strong, safe way.
Bullying behaviour can be verbal: name calling, put downs; physical: punching, hitting; emotional: being left out or ostracised.
Every act of bullying is where one person or a group use their power over another to control them.

What YOU can do
- Do listen to your child
- Do read up and ask questions to familiarise yourself with ‘NAMING IT’
- Do support your child and the school in this approach
- Do encourage your child to use ‘NAMING IT’
- Do help your child practise the sequence of ‘NAMING IT’ if they have been or are being bullied
- Do inform the school if your child continues to be bullied or your child has not been able to ‘NAME IT’ at school
- Do ‘have a go’ at using the ‘NAMING IT’ process yourself at home

What NOT to do
- Don’t make fun of this approach
- Don’t encourage your child to ‘get them back’ eg; hit back, call them names, be mean or retaliate. This will result in your child receiving a consequence for inappropriate behaviour. Bullying back/retaliation DOES NOT sort out the problem
- Don’t ignore bullying
- Don’t call your child a “wuss”, a “sook” or “weak”
- Don’t tell them “to get over it” or “toughen up” or “to play with someone else”. This minimises the situation and blames the victim
- Don’t take matters into your own hands by approaching the bully or the bully’s parents, it is a school matter and the appropriate channel is to speak to the class teacher or principal regarding your concerns.
- If the bullying continues keep contacting the school

Be involved, talk to your child, teacher or principal about any concern or worry you have about bullying. This may be a different approach from how bullying was addressed when you were growing up.

‘NAMING IT’ keeps all parties safe and encourages a pro-active way to stop bullying.
FINDING HEAD LICE
Many lice do not cause an itch, so you have to look carefully to find them.

Head lice are found on the hair itself and move to the scalp to feed. They have six legs which end in a claw and they rarely fall from the head. Louse eggs (also called nits) are laid within 1.5 cm of the scalp and are firmly attached to the hair. They resemble dandruff, but can’t be brushed off.

Lice can crawl and hide. The easiest and most effective way to find them is to follow these steps:

Step 1- Combing any type of hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip the hair or crawl around.

Step 2- Now comb sections of the hair with a fine tooth, head lice comb.

Step 3- Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

Step 4- Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

Step 5- Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.

CLASS NEWS
Senior Department News
A reminder that final camp payments are due Friday, March 25th. We are looking forward to a great personal learning experience for students as they partake in this adventure camp. As items are collected for the camp, please ensure they are clearly labelled as this will assist us in returning any misplaced items.

Our school swimming program will commence next week. Students require towel, bathers and a suitable bag for storage of clothing in the dressing room.

Some inappropriate choices are being made by students in respect to use of computers/netbooks. A reminder that all students using netbooks have signed an Acceptable Use Agreement and need to be familiar with the content of what they, and their parents, have agreed by signing the document.

5/6 News Team

Middle Department News
We hope that everyone enjoyed the long weekend with their families.

A couple of reminders. Children need to bring a labelled spoon and plate for the gardening program. This week the students are cooking apple and rhubarb crumble, using the produce from the garden.

Swimming begins on Monday next week. Please label all clothing as lost items are then easily returned to their correct owner. Children should not wear bathers to school. They will be given time at school to change, before they go swimming.

Reading needs to occur every night. If students are reading independently they still need to have their diaries signed. Many children still need to be heard every night. If they have a novel or library book that they have chosen independently, they should read their school reader for at least ten minutes before reading their own choice.

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

Junior Department News
Prep
This week in Prep we are focusing on the letter ‘T’ and the word ‘and’. Please discuss these with your child when they are reading at home.

We are now ready for parent helpers in the classroom. If you have completed your ‘Working with Children Check’ and filled out a SHPS Protocols form please have these checked at the office. Once this is done you can schedule a regular time with your child’s teacher.

Can Parents please ensure students have brain food and an afternoon snack when they have a lunch order.

Thank you for your continual support. We are all thoroughly enjoying the year!!!

Natalie & Kim

Grade 1/2
This week we are continuing to write recounts. In addition to this we have a writing session each week that encourages children to be creative in their thinking. An example of this is writing alternative endings to stories or changing the characters in some way.

The focus this week in reading is predicting. When children are reading a book at home for the first time they can be asked to predict what the story might be about. They can also predict the ending. If they have read the book ask them to suggest what could happen next.

In maths we have been working on addition and subtraction. We have also been comparing the mass of objects and measuring how many objects will fit into a container.

Spelling books will go home again this week. Thank you to all parents who encouraged their children to practise the words in their book last week. Could all parents please read the rule books that children bring home, discuss them with your child, sign and return to school.

Teresa, Jenny, Kylie, Julie, Jacqui & Hayden

GENERAL NEWS

SWIMMING PROGRAM - Payment due (reminder)
Please have permission notes and money to school asap. Children cannot attend the swimming program unless payment is made.

Dates:
21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th & 30th March.
BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Speci Healthy Breakfast program next Wednesday 23rd 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

EASTER RAFFLE
Could all families please donate an item for the Easter Raffle. Please bring them to school and leave them at the office.
If all families donate an item or 2 we will have a wonderful raffle.
With thanks
Raffle books have gone home. More books are available from the office.
Home groups 10 & 11

WINTER NETBALL – Expressions of Interest
This year Specimen Hill Primary School will be entering three teams into the Golden City Netball Association’s Winter Netball Competition. The school will be entering two 11/Under teams and one 13/Under team. School Netball is a great opportunity for students to develop their skills and knowledge within the sport of Netball. While co-operating with others in a team environment, students also develop new friendships with other students.

We are seeking expressions of interest from those who are interested in Coaching, Managing or Umpiring a team this season. We endeavour to fill these roles for each team in the next two weeks. Your ongoing support of school sport is greatly appreciated.

Could those interested in any of the above roles please contact me on 54 435353 or see me in person.

Yours sincerely, Hayden Polglase (PE Co-ordinator)

CANTEEN NEWS
NO AFTER LUNCH SALES EXCEPT FOR LUNCH ORDER DAYS—MONDAY AND FRIDAY.
Please note that there will be no lunch orders for the next two Mondays (21st & 28th) due to the swimming program.

LUNCH WALLET ORDERS
We have a supply of pink, blue and green lunch wallets at the school office. These can be collected from the office upon payment of $7.00

WORKING BEE
WANTED - Willing workers.
WHEN - Sunday 20th March 10am-1pm
WHERE - Speci playground/oval/gardens
WHY - Because our school needs a bit of a tidy and if lots of mums and dads and kids come to help it will look even better.

The Physical Environment Committee will be providing morning tea, pizza lunch and refreshments.
Lucky raffle tickets will be circulating too.
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

TUPPERWARE PARTY AT SPECI PLAYGROUP
Thursday 17th March from 10:15-11:30am.
All welcome!!!! Come for a browse at the Autumn/Winter Collection. Hostess Gift will be used to raise funds for playgroup at a later date.

UNIFORM SHOP - reminder
A winter uniform order form was enclosed with last weeks newsletter. Please take the time to fill out and return if you require new winter uniform items. This will allow time to order what is required ready for the cooler weather. Uniform Shop hours—8.30-12.30 Mon. & Tues. and all day Wed.

SPECI PLAYGROUP
Playgroup is an educational, fun and interactive experience for children and parents/carers. Playgroup is open to all children under school age. Speci Playgroup is a member of Playgroup Victoria and provides a wide range of exciting and engaging activities. Come along and meet new people, make new friends and get involved in the school community.
Time: 9am to 10:45am in the Multi Purpose Room
Please bring along a healthy snack and hat for your child.
Cost is $1 per child. Tea and Coffee is available for parents/carers.

CHOCOLATE FROGS have all sold out.

LOST
1 size 6/8 Speci Jacket with Tom Roberts name on tag. If found please return to Room 13.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Welcome back to Hookin2Hockey, 2011!
We are once again conducting Hookin2Hockey in Term 2 and Term 3 this year. And some of you may be participating in Hockey Victoria's school roadshow this week!
TERM 2 dates: Sat 30th April to Sat 4th June
TERM 3 dates: Sat 23rd July to Sat 27th Aug

EXCITING NEWS: For those of you who are coming back and ready for it, we are extending the H2H program to offer smaller-format hockey games ("U9/U11") on the wet pitch - these will run concurrently with the H2H program. Selections to these games will be based on a combination of age & skill, as selected on the days and as we progress. This provides the "next step". Coaches & team shirts will be provided by us each week. Also, we're hoping some of our parents might get involved as "managers/helpers".

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKE ON-LINE IN 2011.....

(Option A) If your child has all the gear and does not need anything else, the cost will be $30 (registration fee only) for each Term of 6 weeks.
Register here now ... https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v5/regoform.cgi?aid=16596&formID=12237

(Option B) If you are looking to purchase more gear for your child (full pack=$35 with stick, shinpads, t-shirt etc) OR they want a new t-shirt+goal for $25, these are on top of the min $30 registration fee.
You'll need to register here for Option B... https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v5/regoform.cgi?aid=16596&formID=12237

Should you have any questions about registration or the programs, please call me or email me on hev.hin2h@gmail.com (we are changing from yahoo to gmail over the next few weeks).
I look forward to seeing your children return to hockey again this year and having more fun!
Kerri Wellman H2H Coordinator Ph. 5449 3527

BASKETBALL PROGRAMS X 2
McBiddy Ball. This is a program aimed for children aged 4-8 years old to teach the kids some basic ball skills and have some fun and a great introduction to the game of basketball. This is held on Mondays and Tuesday afternoons from 4pm-5pm with a cost of only $2 a session and the coaches are our own Bendigo Braves Players.

The second program we have organised is our Love the game basketball camp- this is a school holiday program that runs for the first 3 days of the school holidays- 11th, 12th, 13th April. The children are dropped off at the Stadium by 9am and it runs all day with pick up times of either 3pm or 5pm.

For any further information please contact Cynthia in the Sports Office at the Bendigo Stadium on 5440 6221 or via email cynthia.croxford@bendigostadium.com.au

SCOTS BASEBALL CLUB
Training Wednesdays 5pm-6pm @ Albert Roy Reserve Victoria Street, Eaglehawk. Season starts in May, playing on Sunday morning.