Dear Parents and friends, welcome to week 8 of Term 1

PARENT SURVEY
In the newsletter you will find a parent survey which I would like as many families as possible to complete. The survey is part of the School Review process where we are seeking feedback and suggestions from the school community. A similar survey will be conducted by all students at school as well as staff. The data will help us to reflect on the past 4 years at Specimen Hill and help us to plan appropriately for the future. Once completed can you place them in the survey box at the front office by Thursday 31st March.

PARKING
It has come to my attention that parents are dropping off and collecting students in the courts at either side of the school. These are drive around areas only and are not for stopping, for dropping off or for pick ups. The Principals from neighbouring schools have alerted me to police presence in the area before and after school. These areas are under police jurisdiction, not the schools. Unfortunately many parents have been booked for disobeying road rules. I would hope that we can avoid this happening at Speci Hill through everyone obeying the appropriate rules. Children can be dropped off a block away and will enjoy the walk, otherwise parents must park before dropping off or collecting.

Please work together to ensure the safety of our children.

WORKING BEE
A huge thank you to Mrs Brown and staff members and students and parents and friends who participated in the working bee last Sunday. Thank you for donating a slice of your precious weekend to volunteer at the school. Heaps of work and jobs were completed and plenty of pizza enjoyed! The school grounds look magnificent, something that the whole school community should be proud of. Thank you once again.

LITERACY FOCUS
The literacy focus at school continues to gain momentum, especially home reading. At Assemblies it is wonderful to see how many students are rewarded for reading consistently at home. Unless this is occurring, each student is at a huge disadvantage in their knowledge and understanding of words and the message of text. This translates across all subject areas. Even in maths children are required to read a written problem before they can tackle the mathematical problem. Keep Reading!

REMINDER
On Monday 28th March @ 6pm, 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact Corey Warne or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Your support and participation in your child’s learning journey at Specimen Hill PS is appreciated.

Di Craig (Acting Principal)

Dates to Remember...
28-30 Mar - Swimming program continues
Mon 28 Mar - Mr. Ben Johnstone-McLeod, principal Crusoe College visit @ 6pm
Wed 30 Mar - Parents & Friends AGM 9am
Thr 31 Mar - Harmony Day - Sausage sizzle, ice-creams.

Student activities,
- School Disco Preps-6
Mon 4 Apr - School Council meeting
6-8 Apr - Grade 5/6
Camp Fri 8 Apr - Last day Term
1
Wed 27 Apr - First day of Term 2
Fri 29 Apr - School Photos
6-12 May - Book Fair Week
Wed 18 May - Open Day

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STARS OF THE WEEK
Star of the Week were presented at assembly on Monday 21st March

- Rm. 1 - Sean B
- Rm. 2 - Jake F
- Rm. 3 - Takitah M
- Rm. 4 - Corey B
- Rm. 5 - Ryan H
- Rm. 6 - Kiam S
- Rm. 7 - Nicole H
- Rm. 8 - Natalie D-N
- Rm. 9 - Tara S
- Rm. 10 - Chelsea C
- Rm. 11 - Trey A
- Rm. 12 - Callum G-R
- Rm. 13 - Ashlyn B

- Phys. Ed Award - Charlotte K & Room 12
- Art Award - Kayla R
- OSHC Award - Aaron F & Chelsea C

WORKING BEE
A huge thanks to all the parents, teachers, grandparents and children who arrived at school on Sunday to help with the Working Bee. We had lots of jobs listed and every one was done. Our school now looks neat and tidy and some very important safety issues were taken care of.

- thanks to all the workers who donated their time and the staff who prepared morning tea. It was a great turnout and we hope parents continue to support our school this way.

SCHOOL AND SLEEP
Here are some ideas to get your kids back into a good sleep routine. Research is showing us that many children and adolescents aren’t getting as much sleep as they need to be able to function at their best. The Raising Children Network states that:

“Children on average need 10-11 hours of sleep and early adolescents should be getting 9 1/4 hours each night.”

Ideas to improve the amount and quality of your child’s sleep:

- Encourage your child to go to bed and get up around the same time every day. Keep wake up times on school days and weekends to within 2 hours of each other at least.
- Allow plenty of time (at least 40 mins) for your child to wind down before bed. Good ideas could be: a warm bath, a warm milk drink, writing in a journal, reading or listening to quiet music.
- Keep any day time naps to no more than 20 minutes if possible.
- Turn off any electronic stimulation in your child’s bedroom at least one hour before bedtime. This may include: computers, mobile phones, TV and loud music. Avoid any scary TV or computer games before bed.
- Some children with bedtime fears appreciate a night light.
- Avoid any caffeine (energy drinks, tea, chocolate, coffee and cola) in the late afternoon and evening.
- Keep physically active during the day.
- Encourage children to do their homework in the afternoon rather than just before bedtime.

HEAD LICE FACTS:
- Head lice treatments do not kill eggs! WHICH MEANS: Remaining eggs will still hatch after treatment occurs.
- Lice from hatched eggs can mature enough in 7 days to lay eggs. To avoid this happening treat again in 6 days (not 7 as treatments indicate!)
- Eggs can take up to 10 days to hatch! WHICH MEANS: Eggs are still hatching after second treatment. You need to treat the child’s hair till they are clear, not by the label.

CLASS NEWS

Senior Department News
Our camp is only a few weeks away so please support your child in obtaining the necessary items and encourage use of checklists to assist with the organization. Please finalize any outstanding paperwork and fees promptly so our camp can run as smoothly as possible.

Students wishing to use the Circus Equipment during school recess times need to have the required permission forms signed and returned so we can monitor this activity in a safe manner.

The swimming program is underway and children seem to have enjoyed the first lessons with their instructors. We have had a few shopping bags disintegrate at the pool so please arrange for swimming gear to be in stronger bags if necessary.

A reminder that all students need to be committed to a daily home reading schedule and a record should be kept in a reading log or diary.

5/6 News Team

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
THURSDAY
31ST MARCH
Orders home next Monday, returned Wednesday
Middle Department News
Swimming has started this week and has been running smoothly. All children have been responsible for their belongings and are making the transition between school and swimming in a positive manner. Children may become tired by the end of the busy day so they may need to go to bed earlier so they are ready for learning the next day.
Please continue to read nightly with your child. If they are independent readers, you can ask them some questions about the book and then sign their reader afterwards.
Spelling will begin in the 3/4 area before the end of term. Children are expected to complete this each week at home along with their reading.
Thankyou for your ongoing support from home, as education is a partnership between school and home.

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

Junior Department News
Prep
Well done to all of our preps who received a 25 night reading award last week. Some students are very close! Don’t forget that tomorrow is an optional day off for preps as many are tired as we are approaching the end of term and extra tired due to our first week of swimming.
Reminder - 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.

Natalie & Kim

Grade 1/2
This week many students were given reading awards for their fabulous efforts in reading "take home" books at home. Some have read for more than 40 nights which is great. To get an award the children must have their reading journal signed by the person who has heard them read at home. Thankyou to all those parents who are supporting the take home reading program by listening to their child and signing the journal. We are also thrilled with the children who have been practising words at home in their spelling books.
Swimming is underway. Children have been very responsible with their belongings so far. It is a great help if clothing is named so could you do this if you haven't already. The program has been running smoothly and children are happily learning new water safety skills.
Room 13 (1/2 O) are organising a disco to be held at the Golden Hills Motel on Thursday 31st March from 7 to 8.30pm. Tickets are on sale each morning at the office between 8.45 and 9.00. Children are encouraged to wear a fancy hat to the disco.

Teresa, Jenny, Kylie, Julie, Jacqui & Hayden

GENERAL NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS
While swimming is on the timetable will be altered slightly. Children who wish to change Library books will need to do so before school on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday or during the lunchtime session.
With thanks
Sandy

CONGRATULATIONS
To Mrs. Sally Brown for a tremendously successful Working Bee on Sunday.
It was a delight to see so many new faces. It would rate as one of our best.
Wayne Sherriff
School Council President

SCHOOL NETBALL
This year’s Winter Netball competition commences on Saturday 2nd April.
Under 11’s will be coached by Amanda Dole. Training will be held at school on Thursday nights from 3:30-4:15pm.
Under 13’s will be coached by Michelle Stewart. Training will be held at school on Thursday nights from 3:30-4:15pm. Both under 11’s and Under 13’s will begin training this week, Thursday 24th March.

SCHOOL DISCO
School Disco to be held on Thursday 31st March from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Golden Hills Motel in Marong Road.
Current students only to attend. No younger or older family members.
Theme: Mad Hatters—crazy hats
Bring: Plate of supper to share
Cost: $4.00 or $4.50 at the door
Tickets: on sale in the office between 8.45 and 9am
Rules:
1. Children must be walked to and collected from the venue
2. No admittance before 7pm
3. No adults, preschoolers, or older children will be admitted.
4. Children will be supervised by teachers at all times
5. No children will be permitted to leave the venue during the disco unless collected by their parent
6. Children going home with another family will require a permission note from their parent.
Thanks to Dearna H’s family for kindly letting the school use their facilities once again.

**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

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**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.

**Accounts** go home each fortnight. It would be appreciated if payment could be made asap.

**Payment Option:** Direct Deposit—A/c Name Specimen Hill Primary School, A/c No. 10113221, BSB 063506 with your name and OSHC for details.

Thurs 24th Mar. - Fruit smoothies / Playground fun
Fri 25th Mar. - Cooking toast / Garbage bag fun
Mon 28th Mar. - Frozen yoghurt / balloon fun
Tues 29th Mar. - Cooking Honey Joys / Free play in Multi
Wed 30th Mar. - Popcorn & Juice / Movie night

Food at ASC is a snack only. If your child requires more to eat please supply extra snacks for them.

**BSHC** Phone No. 0438 062 561. Please ring Victoria for bookings/cancellations.

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**NEWSLETTERS** are available from our website http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au.

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**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.

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**SWIMMING**

Dates:
28th, 29th & 30th March (last week).

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**BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Speci Healthy Breakfast program next Wednesday 30th 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

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**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.

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**CANTEEN NEWS**

**NO AFTER LUNCH SALES EXCEPT FOR LUNCH ORDER DAYS—MONDAY AND FRIDAY.**

Please note that there will be no lunch order next Monday 28th due to the swimming program.

**Sausage Sizzle** to be held 31st March.

**Hot Cross Bun** day Friday 8th April. NO LUNCH ORDERS ON THIS DAY.

Orders will go home Friday 1st April. Orders back Monday 4th April.

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**UNIFORM SHOP** - reminder

Winter uniform for Rugby Jumpers and Sports jacket have been order and should be at school within the next 3 weeks.

Uniform Shop hours—8.30-12.30 Mon. & Tues. and all day Wed.
Recipe from 3/4 Gardening Group

Zucchini & Basil Soup
Ingredients- serves 4

2 tbs olive oil
1 brown onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 dsp chicken stock powder
5 cups of water
440 g potatoes, peeled, cut into 1.5 cm pieces
700 g zucchinis and/or squash
3/4 cup basil
1/2 cup cheese
1 cup milk
Lemon and pepper spice

Method

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, lemon and pepper and basil and cook, stirring 1 minute. Increase heat to high. Add stock, water and potato and bring to the boil. Cook, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes until potato is tender. Add zucchini and cook for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese and milk.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands.............