Welcome to students, families and friends to week 9 of Term 1.

SCHOOL SURVEY
Last week a copy of a School Review Survey went home to each family. At this stage I have not received many responses which is quite disappointing. This is a wonderful opportunity for all parents to have their say plus to provide feedback to the school. The areas for comment are—What is great about Specimen Hill? What do you think could be improved and what is interesting or further suggestions? The survey response can be anonymous or you may choose to write your name on the sheet. So that we have rich information we need at least 30% of responses from across the school. Please take the time to fill in only those areas that you feel that you wish to comment on. The due date is extended until Thursday 7th April. All surveys to be placed in the blue box at the office.

Step up to Crusoe
Last Monday evening Ben Johnstone – McLeod the Principal of Crusoe came to speak to students and parents about ‘Stepping up to Crusoe’ in 2012. He was very informative and was able to speak about programs, physical developments at the school and then to answer questions. Those who attended are now able to make a more informed decision as to which secondary school their child will attend. Ben was also able to dispel many of the ‘myths and heresays’ that do the rounds which are often unsubstantiated stories. We are always better to hear first hand rather than indirectly. Ben also spoke about ‘open mornings’ happening in Term 2 where parents and friends are able to visit the school. I will keep you informed.

SCHOOL VALUE
The value for this fortnight is ‘kindness’. Kindness takes many forms but is generally about the way we speak and act towards others. It is about being helpful, providing support, actively listening, speaking in a kind and caring manner, behaving appropriately, displaying good manners and sharing some part of you with others. If we all demonstrate our values then the message is clear to our students.

PARENTS & FRIENDS AGM
Today was the 2011 AGM for the Parents and Friends group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President - Martine Abbas. Martine continues to be an active member of Parents and Friends and her huge contribution to the school is appreciated.

New executive positions are as follows:
President: Marie Cox, Vice President: Mel Burke, Secretary: Danielle Boulton, Treasurer: Kate Fitzgerald.
Congratulations to them all and I look forward to working alongside this team over the following 12 months. We are always looking for new members so please approach any of these people for further information. The profile and involvement of Parent and Friends is looking to be revamped with more social events, activities and contributions to the school planning.

Parents Reading Training Group
• Next Tuesday 5th April at 9.00 to 10.00 in the Library. Come along to learn how to actively listen to your child read.

ANNUAL REPORT
Copies of the School annual Report are available from the front office. Please collect one as it gives an overview of the progress and achievements of the school over the past 12 months. A public meeting to further discuss the Annual Report will be held in the Library at 5.30 pm tonight. All welcome. This will be followed (at 6pm) by a short extraordinary School Council Meeting to approve the Annual report.

IT IS NOT OKAY
I am concerned with the way that some parents speak to staff following an incident. It is not Okay under any circumstances to verbally abuse any staff member or another parent. We need to model appropriate behaviour at all times. I know that there are occasions when we are feeling angry over an incident but the way you manage that anger is extremely important. Verbal or physical violence is never okay when dealing with any issue. Speaking in a calm manner shows that you are still in control and that you can be involved and heard in a respectful and mature manner.
ICE-CREAM (PADDLE POPS) FOR SALE TOMORROW FOR $1.00
All proceeds will go toward the school’s Mathletics subscription
NO CANTEEN LUNCHES THIS FRIDAY DUE TO THURSDAY’S SAUSAGE SIZZLE
NO CANTEEN LUNCHES FRIDAY 8TH APRIL DUE TO HOT CROSS BUN DAY
MOTHERS DAY STALL FRIDAY 6TH MAY. DONATIONS OF GIFTS NEEDED

Good Luck to all students and staff attending the 5/6 Camp next week. It promises to be a wonderful time.
Thank you for strengthening the home/school partnership in your child’s learning journey.

Di Craig (Acting Principal)

Crusoe College “Owns It” for National Youth Week
To kick start National Youth Week Crusoe College Kangaroo Flat in conjunction with Bendigo Community Health Services are hosting an event focusing on the 2011 theme ‘Own it’ on Thursday March 31 from 3.30pm till 6.20pm.
Sam Brambam (Paralympian 100m butterfly world record holder) will be the guest speaker.
The evening’s festivities will also include art and music workshops, sporting activities run by both local and national sporting champions, hip hip dancing, mobile climbing wall, slot cars and the Police and CFA will be attendance. Young people across the region that are in Grade 6 or from a secondary school and parents are invited to this celebration.
Activities commence at 3.30pm. They aim to showcase the talents of Bendigo’s youth and also better educate not just the students but parents on the youth services and support that young people can access in their local community.
National Youth Week runs from April 1 to April 10 and is Australia’s largest celebration of young people. Each year thousands of young people aged 12-25 across Australia get involved in National Youth Week, a joint Australian, state, territory and local government initiative.
Background: Sam Bramham entered the Australian Paralympic team with a splash, breaking the world record in the heats of the 100m butterfly at the Athens Paralympics, his first race for the team. He later went on to win a bronze medal in the finals. In 2006, Sam managed to win the 100m butterfly in Berlin and again capture the world record.
For futher information please contact Sarah Royce on 5447 7722 or 0407 350 455.

Dates to Remember…
Thur 31 Mar - Harmony Day - Sausage sizzle, ice-creams. Student activities.
- School Disco Preps-6
Mon 4 Apr - School Council meeting 7:00pm
5-7 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 9:30 to 11:45am

STARS OF THE WEEK
Star of the Week were presented at assembly on Monday 28th March
Rm. 1 - Georgina F & Jacob C
Rm. 2 - Tahlia B
Rm. 3 - Skylar W
Rm. 4 - Sophie D
Rm. 5 - Deanna H
Rm. 6 - Ebony W
Rm. 7 - Shauna M
Rm. 8 - Edward D
Rm. 9 - Jayden M
Rm. 10 - Jeremy W, Ethan F & Whole Class
Rm. 11 - Lachlan L & Ruby E
Rm. 12 - Destinee S
Rm. 13 - Mikayla L

Phys. Ed Award - Aaron R-B\nRusty H & Room 11
Art Award - Natalie D-N
OSHC Award - Grace W, Jacob C & Paris S

WELLBEING NEWS
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 t r e a t the child’s hair till they are clear, not by the label.

Catching Head Lice
If isolated from the head they die very quickly. Studies have proved they can’t be transferred from hat to hat.

PARENTLINE 13 22 89 - Don’t cope alone
Parentline provides parents and carers the opportunity to talk with professional counsellors about any parenting issues or concerns you may have.
The service operates 7 days a week, 8am through to mid-night.
“I was impressed that Parentline took my issues seriously. Sometimes I feel as if I am banging my head against a brick wall but I felt I got somewhere after the call”
Our children's future in the very best of hands............

**CLASS NEWS**

**Senior Department News**

The 5/6 Camp is nearly organized! A large thanks to Ms Heard who has managed the camp organization very capably. Please ensure that your child has their equipment check (shoes and coat) completed this week. This will enable them to fully participate in the camp activities with the minimum of problems arising from inadequate equipment. It is important that students arrive at the allocated time prior to departure on Tuesday to enable baggage to be packed and last minute organization can take place smoothly. Please ensure all bags are packed securely.

Swimming finishes today and the program has run successfully again this year. Thanks to all the senior students who have supported younger students in managing and changing clothing during the program.

5/6 News Team

**Middle Department News**

All students in the 3/4 area have received a spelling homework list. These words need to be learned by the students and their homework book needs to be kept in their reading folder so that it is at school daily.

Today the swimming program has been completed. A busy

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**HARMONY DAY**

**THURSDAY 31ST MARCH**

Tomorrow is Harmony Day at Speci.

Activities:
- Casual clothes day—gold coin donation
- Sausage sizzle @ 11am. Parents and friends are welcome to have lunch with their child/ren. There will be circus and music for entertainment.
- Ice-creams for sale @ $1.00 ea
- Rotation of activities for students.

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**Mathletics**

A reminder that students can access Mathletics at home if they have access to the internet. All students should have their password. Please encourage students if possible, to spend some time during the week or weekend practising their maths skills.

We encourage all students to use Mathletics on a weekly basis. It is designed to reinforce maths topics covered in the classroom as well provide practise with basic number facts.

Mathletics coordinator
Wendy Jackson

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**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**THURSDAY 31ST MARCH**

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**SEASONS FOR GROWTH**

A permission slip went home with last week’s newsletter. If you believe that your child/ren will benefit from this program, please complete the permission note and return it to the school office. The program will begin in Term 2 as required.

Sandy Young & Lisa Maxwell
Co-Facilitators.

PS. More notes are available from the office.

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**EASTER RAFFLE**

Thankyou to our wonderful school community for all the lovely donations for our Easter Raffle.

Parent Helpers needed to sort and wrap for the raffle. Please meet Lisa Maxwell tomorrow in the staffroom @ 9am.

Raffle books and money due back tomorrow, Thursday. Raffle to be drawn Monday 4th April

Home groups 10 & 11

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Student Photo forms were sent home this week. These can be returned to the office or held onto and returned on our photo day on Friday 29th April

Family Photo forms are available from the office.

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5/6 News Team

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Today the swimming program has been completed. A busy
but enjoyable time for students. Students have learnt many new skills including water safety.
Please maintain the home reading routines to the end of the term. All classes participate in focused independent reading daily. Please continue to sign your child’s reading journal even when your child is an independent reader. The best way to become a better reader is to read. Reading improvement will only occur if students regularly practise their reading skills. In writing the 3/4 students have been working on writing persuasive texts using paragraphing. We are encouraging students to include greater detail in their writing and improve their punctuating skills.

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

**Junior Department News**

**Prep**
Preps have thoroughly enjoyed our swimming program. It has been lovely to see their smiling faces splashing around in the pool while learning valuable skills. The children have done a wonderful job of getting changed for swimming, getting on and off the bus, swimming and getting changed afterwards! Only a few items of clothing have gone missing and we hope that these will show up soon (a timely reminder to make sure all items of clothing are named when coming to school). Our word of the week this week is ‘a’. Please ensure you discuss this with your child and keep discussing our past words of the week from term 1 (the, is & and).

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**

Today was our last day of swimming. The program has run smoothly. Children have done an excellent job keeping their belongings together. Many are getting tired though so may need some early nights. Tomorrow night is the school disco that 1/2O are organising. Tickets are on sale between 8:45 and 9:00 at the office. They will also be available at the disco. Children are encouraged to wear a “mad” hat. It sounds exciting.

Over the next week we will be revising what we have covered so far this term. Please continue to hear your child read every night and sign the reading journal.

Teresa, Jenny, Kylie, Julie, Jacqui & Hayden

**GENERAL NEWS**

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Overdue Library books need to be returned before Easter holidays. It is easy to have books outstanding so please assist your child in returning books regularly.

Thanks,
Sandy

**Students with overdue books -**

**SCHOOL NETBALL reminder**
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 - reminder**

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.
BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Speci Healthy Breakfast program next Wednesday 6th April. 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

LOST
One micro fibre jacket named with Marli Fox. Please return to the office or to Marli.

LUNCH WALLET ORDERS
Just a reminder that you do not need to include a brown paper bag with the lunch wallets. Put money and written order in the pocket of the lunch wallet.
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

CANTEEN NEWS
Sausage Sizzle to be held tomorrow 31st March.

NO LUNCH ORDERS THIS FRIDAY 1ST APRIL.
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.

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.

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.

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

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
ASHC Phone No. 0447 788 636. Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations. Accounts have gone home today 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 31st Mar. - Fruit & Veg Platter picnic
Fri 1st April. - Flav. Milk & cookies / Free play
Mon 4th April - Cooking mini pizzas / music activities
Tues 5th April - Tasting platter & Juice / free play on basketball court & Gabarli
Wed 6th April - Jelly & Fruit / Making play dough

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.

KEYBOARD LESSONS
New Enrolments are currently being accepted for Term 2, 2011.
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.

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.

CAN YOU HELP ROCHESTER
Recover from the devastating floods
The Garden Club and Community House are running a PLANT DRIVE to be held in Rochester
Saturday 30th April

We need people to propagate plants from their own gardens or donate plants, seedlings or bulbs towards our plant drive. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Anne Foster (parent) to arrange collection of your donations. Ring 0437 955 202. Donations of small pots or potting mix would also be appreciated.