Complete along with top-dressing the oval & installing sleepers and spreading mulch.

PARENTS & FRIENDS AGM—2009
The Parents & Friends Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 16 March at 2:15pm. All members were thanked for their many contributions in 2008. Some of their activities were: Running of the Canteen, Play group, school photos, uniform shop, parent managed Head Lice program and support for fundraising events.

The Executive of Marie Cox (President) Margaret Sherriff (Secretary) Janine Nicholls (Treasurer) were also thanked for their leadership during the year. Special mention was made of the contribution that Janine has made over the past 6 years as coordinator of the uniform shop. All positions were then declared vacant and nominations were accepted for Executive positions - 2009.

Parents & Friends Executive for 2009
President - Marie Cox
Vice President - Danielle Boulton
Secretary - Cheryl Brown-Sarre
Treasurer - Tracey McSween

Congratulations to all elected office bearers. I wish them the best and again hope that school community members will support them in 2009.

NETBOOKS UP AND RUNNING
It was with great anticipation and excitement that the Year 5 & 6 students opened their Netbooks for the first time last Friday. All the Netbooks had arrived at the school the week before and were configured to our network ready to use early last week. Students and staff got through some of the administrative work (serial numbers collected etc) then they explored the educational content of these fabulous little computers. The Year 6 students will start taking them home (daily) as soon as we have completed the orientation program. This is likely to be in the last week of the term.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008
The Annual Report for 2008 will be published this week and a copy sent home to all families. This is a celebration of the 2008 school year. The Annual Reporting meeting will be held next Monday 23.03.09 at 6:30pm in the school library. All community members are welcome.
**Dates to Remember...**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 21</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Working Bee (9am—12:30pm)</td>
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<td>Mon 23</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Annual Reporting meeting (6:30pm)</td>
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<td>Mon 23</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>School Council meeting (7:00pm)</td>
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<td>Tues 24</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Arts Incursion- whole school</td>
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<td>Thurs 26</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Leadership Investiture 2.15pm</td>
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<td>Mon 30</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Easter Raffle tickets &amp; money due back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Easter raffle drawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 3</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Last day Term 1—2:15pm finish</td>
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<td>Swimming notes &amp; money due</td>
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</tbody>
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**Term 2**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 20</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Start Term 2—2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 27-29</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Camp</td>
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**STAFFING CHANGE—WELCOME ANIKA**

We welcome to our staff Anika Blackley who has taken over the management of the Before School Care program. Belinda Quinlan was in this position on a temporary basis since the start of the year. Anika has made a great start and we look forward to her contribution to the Specimen Hill community.

I would like to thank Belinda for giving us a smooth start to the year and supporting Anika’s transition into the Before School Care position.

**STARS OF THE WEEK**
The Star of the Week awards were presented - Monday 16 March to:

- PG: Tahlia B
- PQ: Tiarri B
- P/1B: Lily I
- 1/2 H: Declan R
- 1/2 MY: Edward D
- 1/2 SW: Thomas R
- 3/4B: Amy N
- 3/4G: Paris S
- 3/4GW: Josie H
- 3/4J: Kylara L
- 5/6B: Connor L
- 5/6M: Brandon P
- 5/6S: The whole class!

Principal’s Award - Maddison R (5/6S)

Congratulations to all these students for their achievements & contributions

**THANKS**
Thank you to Craig Smith for donating some reinforcing mesh for the vegetable garden area.

**WORKING BEE—Sat. 21 March 9-12:30pm**
Please come along to our Working Bee on Saturday even if it’s for an hour!

**CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK**
To be more persistent (keep going when things get tough!)

Doug Jones
Principal

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**LEADERSHIP INVESTITURE**
Last week it was advertised that the School Leadership Investiture would be held this Thursday 19th March. Unfortunately this will need to be postponed again until the following Thursday 26th March at 2.15pm.

We are very sorry about any inconvenience this may have caused families but we hope that you are able to attend on the new date.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL**—reminder this Friday is colour day.

It was decided that the Council wished to raise money for the purchase of play equipment for the sandpit so an Out of Uniform Day is planned and will be held on Friday 20th March. Cost: Gold Coin donation. The theme is colours. Class reps have nominated the following colours for their class:

- Prep G and Prep Q - Rainbow colours
- Prep/1 - Blue
- 1/2MY - Green
- 3/4C - Yellow
- 3/4B - Pink
- 5/6B - Purple
- 5/6S - Black

**WELLBEING NEWS**
“Go for your Life”
This is an initiative from the Victorian Government focusing on improving the physical activity levels and health of all Victorian families. This encompasses getting families involved in regular activity and improving the eating choices that families make.

The kids campaign – ‘Go for your life’ Move, Play and Go supports the fact that active play provides the foundations for children to develop lifelong physical activity behaviours and consequently the enjoyment of a long-term healthy lifestyle. A healthy lifestyle is vital in reducing childhood obesity and the impact of chronic diseases later in life such as diabetes and cancer. It also significantly improves a child’s self esteem and emotional health.

There are 6 healthy messages from the program and these are:

* Tap into water - we encourage all children to have a water bottle on their tables at school every day
* Plant fruit and vegetables in your lunchbox
* Limit ‘sometimes’ foods - as demonstrated in the school canteen
* Move, Play and Go - get involved in physical activity

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Our children’s future in the very best of...
* Turn off, Switch to play - limit the time in front of electronic equipment
* Stride and ride - walking and riding to school

These are 6 key factors that we all should be incorporating into our daily routines.

Di Craig, Assistant Principal

CLASS NEWS

JUNIOR NEWS

All children in the Junior Department visit the Library regularly. It is important for each child to have a Library Bag in which to keep the library book clean and safe. Mrs Young has Library Bags for sale at a cost of $2 each. Alternatively Prep children are able to use the green bag they received at the start of the year. Prep children need to have their Library Bag and book on Wednesdays and children in Years 1&2 need their bag and book on Fridays.

The Prep children have settled into the routine of school. They are producing fabulous pieces of writing and are becoming more confident as writers. It is fascinating working with them while they work out words and read their sentence back to you. They are growing as readers and keen to read books to you.

Thank you to parents for completing the Take Home Diary. This is a great record for your child of the books they have read and provides vital information for the classroom teacher about how much practice the children get at home.

Prep/1B and 1/2M are organising the Easter Raffle. Parent helpers will be needed to organise the raffle books, make up the prizes and wrap them.

Teresa, Katie, Lisa, Sandy, Corey, Julie, Kylie & Julian

SENIOR NEWS

Grade 3/4

Thank you to those who have returned their permission notes and money for the incursion next week. Please make sure you do so soon if you wish your child to attend. No phone calls will be made home on the day, as unfortunately we do not have time to follow up on these matters.

Last week, students brought home a homework sheet on why their family lives in Bendigo. We would greatly appreciate it if you could assist students to complete this form and return it to school by this Friday. The purpose of the exercise is to examine some of the reasons people choose to live in different regions or areas.

As the colder weather sets in, please take the time to label items of clothing that can be easily removed. At the moment, the weather is cold in the morning and warmer in the afternoons. Children often remove items of clothing while playing and leave it on the oval. A named jacket is easily returned.

Yesterday students undertook a workshop with Kim Donald, to practise painting techniques they will be using when completing their value totem pole. Each class will be completing a totem pole that symbolises a value under the supervision of Kim. 3/4 J’s value is Freedom, 3/4 C’s Social Justice, 3/4 G’s Honesty and 3/4’s B Responsibility. Students have discussed these values in their classrooms and brainstormed images that would represent these values. We are looking forward to participating in this school project.

Thankyou,
Judy, Natalie, Craig and Wendy

Grade 5/6

It’s been a wonderful week. We finally got our Netbooks! Everyone has been really excited. Children have been having fun exploring and learning with their Netbooks. The grade 6’s will get to take their Netbooks home and grade 5’s will only use theirs at school.

The School Captain and JSC investiture has been postponed and will commence on Thursday the 26th of March at 2:15pm in the multi purpose room followed by afternoon tea in the staff room for friends and family.

The Grade 6 Tee Shirts have arrived. Now all year 6’s will be looking very smart in their new shirts.

Thank You
Maddi & Jess for 5/6 News Team

GUITAR GROUPS

Guitar Groups are progressing well with Beginners Group on Tuesday @ lunchtime. Please remember to bring guitar and display book each week. J’s Music have recently donated an electronic tuner to our school for use by the guitar groups. We thank this business for supporting our school.

LIBRARY

All children require a library bag to borrow so we can protect our books. Cloth bags are available for $2 from Mrs. Young. Children need to return books weekly so they don’t get lost. Lost books will incur a fine to help pay for replacement.

With thanks, Sandy

PERFORMING ARTS - reminder

Cosentino, the magician, is visiting next Tuesday. Please make sure you get the permission notice and payment in on Monday.
Children in Years 3&4 are working towards a performance early in Term Two. Stay tuned for more details.

Julian Regan

Our children’s future in the very best of
PE NEWS
Netball News
Netball training will begin next week for all teams. Training for teams will begin at 3.20 and conclude at approximately 4.15. Please be prompt in picking your child up from training.

  Speci Green – Thursday
  Speci Red - Tuesday
  Speci Purple - Monday
  Grade 3 Clinic - Thursday

Reminder: Please pay your child’s netball fees at the front office before the first game.
Grade 3 Clinic- $39.00,11/U-$43.00,13/U-$56.00

The first game of the season will be on Saturday, April 4th.
Draws for the 2009 will be published in the Bendigo Advertiser and on the internet. (www.sporting pulse.com.au)

Swimming Program
Our annual swimming program will be held in the 1st and 3rd weeks of Term 2. More information will be sent home about the program this week.
Dates: 21st, 23rd, 24th April and 5th, 7th, 8th May.

Auskick
For students wanting to become involved in the Auskick Program for 2009 please see the information sheet included in the newsletter or contact Corey at school.

Corey Warne

SCHOOL PHOTOS - reminder
Our school photos will be taken on the first day of term 2.
Cost will be between $16 and $33. There are 6 different options to choose from. Envelopes/forms went home last week.
Family envelopes are available from the office.
Payment will need to be made, with correct money in envelopes supplied, on or before the photo day.

LOST
One purse (cow pattern—black and white) with more than $10 in it belonging to Baylee Y.

CHOCOLATE/EASTER FUNDRAISER - reminder
Cadbury have donated a basket/hamper of chocolate towards our 2009 fundraiser which is to be run by 1/2MY and Prep 1/B. If parents are interested in providing some help please see classroom teachers or Kylie Sonter.
We are now accepting donations of Easter eggs/chocolates. These can be left on the front table/office. The more donations we receive the more prizes there will be.
We are also requiring baskets to put the chocolates in. Raffle books went home last Friday. More raffle books are available from the office. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for $1.

LINEN RAFFLE - reminder
A quilt cover (on display at the school office) is being raffled with proceeds going to Specimen Hill PS fire victims. Tickets are 50c each or 3 for $1 available from the office.

GARDEN GROUPS - DONATIONS
The Grade 3/4 Garden Groups are looking for donations of—2nd hand timber, straw, cow/sheep/ horse manure, wire mesh, reinforced mesh.

WORKING BEE—reminder & Date change
Our first (and hopefully only) Working Bee for the year will be held on Saturday 21st March from 9am-12.30pm. We look forward to your help with a variety of jobs even if only for an hour or two.

2008 GRADE 6 GRADUATION DVD’S
DVD’s are available from the office.

LOST PROPERTY
A reminder that our lost property is collected and left in the Multi Purpose room.
Please check names on your child’s clothing regularly. It is very easy to pick up a wrong item of uniform without realizing it.

WIGGLES TICKETS available
14 left @ $22.50 per ticket (under 12 months free)
1pm show at the Schweppes Centre Sunday 31st May 2009
Please see Kaye in the office.
SCHOOL PAYMENTS - Eftpos
Eftpos is available at the school office. A charge of 1.46% will be added for any credit transactions.

EFTPOS TRANSACTION FAILURE
An Eftpos transaction made on 18th February for $89 for Uniform did not go through due to ‘No Dial Tone’. It would be appreciated if the person involved could come to the office to re-submit this transaction. I apologise for any inconvenience caused.
Val Quinlan

SCHOOL WEB SITE
Web site is up and running again. You can access school newsletters, permission notes, calendar of events and other information on our web site at http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Bendigo Community Toy Library (BCTL) is once again looking for stallholders for their annual ‘Huge Baby and Kids Sale’.

Yes, that’s right it’s on again. Here’s your chance to clear your home of unwanted baby/kids clothes, toys, furniture – anything child related!
Sites start from only $20, so why not get together with a couple of friends to share a stall?
The sale will be held at the YMCA Stadium at 45 Mundy St on Saturday the 2nd May 2009, 9am – 1pm.
Proceeds from site sales help BCTL to maintain and update its ever growing collection of toys, games and puzzles to meet the needs of Bendigo children aged 0-5 years.

All entry (gold coin) donations will be passed on to the local Bush Fire Appeal.
BCTL will do all the advertising; you just need to man your stall for a few hours (even less when shared with friends).
For enquiries or to book a site please call Kate Tinker on 5444 5667 or contact the Toy Library 5441 3180.

GOLDEN SQUARE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
Under 10 training to commence at Allingham Street, 4pm Monday 23rd April.

STRATHDALE HOCKEY CLUB
Is holding a free come and try day for all ages. No hockey experience necessary. For anyone interested come down to the Garden Gully hockey fields, Ashley St., Long Gully at 10.30am.
For more information please contact Michael Lawlor on 0419 048 628

KIDS COOKING CLASSES
Kids Cooking Classes in the School Holidays at the Schweppes Centre.

Registration form available school or Bendigo Stadium Training & Assessment, Cnr. Marong & Inglis Street. Or phone 5440 6246 or visit www.schweppescentre.com.au for more information.

YMCA Holiday Program
Bookings will now be taken at: B Central in Mundy Street, Bendigo 5441 8200.
Look at www.bendigo.ymca.org.au to view the brochure for activities available.

VSL (Victorian School of Languages)
Opening Term 1 2009 - a new VSL language centre at Bendigo South East College, Curtin Street, Bendigo Visit www.vsl.vic.edu.au for more information.

DANCE FOR DIVERSITY
Explore Korean and Indonesia dance and costume at the Gallery, 42 View Street, Bendigo.
Workshop for adults and families 5-6.30pm 18th March. Bookings essential - 5434 6088. Tickets $5, families $10. Refreshments included.

MICROSOFT OFFICE
Save at least 75% on specially priced software for Government school students to use at home.