Dear students, parents and friends,

Welcome to a new year of teaching and learning at Specimen Hill. I hope that everyone had a very restful yet exciting holiday break and all are ready for a great year ahead.

It is wonderful to see all of our returning families and I also would also like to welcome our many new families to the Specimen Hill community.

Along with new students and families I would also like to welcome our new staff to the Speci community. The new staff members have settled in well and have been supported by our regular Speci staff members. Mr Warne and I will be continuing in our ‘acting’ roles as Assistant Principal and Principal until the end of this term and then until further notice.

Thank you to Mrs Manley (and family), Mrs Brown, Mrs Smart (along with Mr Smart), Miss Johns, Ruth and Mr Warne for their diligence in maintaining our gardens, oval and chooks over the holiday period. This is a huge commitment and one that they do with such hard work and grace. Thank you to Trevor Humphreys and the Franzini family for mowing our grassed areas so that they are ready for the children to play on. Serge our handy man was also in over the holidays completing many tasks. Wayne, our school cleaner, has prepared the school well ready for the new year.

Details of 2012 Grade 6 Awards will be published in next weeks newsletter.

This year promises to be very exciting. Last year we started a priority list for major developments around the school, if you have any ideas to contribute please put them in writing and post it in our school letter box at the front office so that we can start moving on some of the tasks.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to call in to see Corey or myself if you have any concerns or celebrations.

Wishing you all a fabulous year of fun, friendship and learning.

Di Craig (Acting Principal)

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STUDENT LEARNING
Welcome back to all families and students to the new school year. I would like to introduce myself to all new families and to outline my role in the school to all school community members. My role in the school is to work alongside teaching staff to support their work in delivering the best possible learning opportunities for all students. At Specimen Hill Primary School we are committed to improving learning outcomes for all students. We acknowledge that children all develop and progress at different rates but we are committed to providing your child with the best possible education. Over the last two years we have been successful in improving the learning outcomes for all students. This has been shown through improved NAPLAN results for our school, along with a general improvement in the student results that our school based assessments are showing us. We believe the support of our school community has been pivotal in allowing us to achieve this. We consider our work as being very much a partnership with families. All students will be provided with opportunities to read on a daily basis at school and will receive daily reading instruction. Young readers require as much practise as possible. Practise makes progress and nothing can replace it. As a school we require all families to monitor and listen to their child’s reading at five nights a week for at least 20 minutes. Of course we are thrilled if students read for longer and on every night of the week. The difference between a good reader and a poor reader is often the amount of reading miles that a child has completed. Reading diaries are used to communicate with families and are a way that you can communicate with your child’s teacher. To facilitate this we ask you to record and comment on your child’s reading on a daily basis. This will assist us to monitor the Home Reading program and address any issues. By undertaking and monitoring your child’s home reading you are making sure that your child is being the best that they can. I will be making regular contributions to the school newsletter throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for them as they will provide you with information on ways that you can assist your child’s education. School Improvement Officer Wendy Jackson

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE
NEW ENROLMENTS FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED FOR 2013
ASHC Phone : 0447 788 636
Please ring Leah Johns for bookings/cancellations.
BSHC Phone : 0438 062 561
Please ring Karen Emerson for bookings/cancellations.

HATS NEED TO WORN IN OSHC - PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A BROAD RIM HAT

Account Payments:
Direct Deposit Payment Option:
A/c Name: Specimen Hill Primary School
BSB: 063506  A/c No: 10113221
(Include Name & OSHC in details)

A reminder that permanent bookings need to give 24 hours notice when cancelling to avoid incurring a charge.
Parents/Carers dropping children off at BSC are required to sign their children in. Please be aware that only authorised people over 18 can collect children from OSHC.

Please remember to pack an extra healthy snack if your child is attending After School Care. Children are often still hungry after the snack provided. After School Care program Closes at 6:00 pm Late pick ups may incur an extra fee !!!

LIBRARY BAGS
To protect our books we encourage all children to have a Library bag. Some will be available for sale for $2 from Mrs Young next week. Children are welcome to use a plastic shopping bag, pillow case or other containers to protect books from drink bottles and sandwiches.

BOOK CLUB
Our school participates in the Scholastic Book Club service. Order catalogues will go home a couple of time each term. Please return order forms and money in a named sealed envelope to the office in the week following distribution. Orders will be filled and returned to children / families approximately a fortnight later. Reading is a life long skill and developing your own home library is a valuable part of family life. Reading and sharing books with your children will demonstrate the value we all place on this skill and develop a love of literacy.

Many thanks…. Sandy

UNIFORM ORDERS 2013
The Uniform shop is open before and after school for purchases. The smaller sized polo shirts have sold out at the moment but an order has been placed with the supply company. These are expected to arrive mid next week some time.
Order forms are available from the office.

Just a reminder that a number of families still have Library Books overdue from last year. This morning I was excited to get 3 books returned. Any books found at home over the holidays will be gratefully received ASAP.
**WELLBEING NEWS**

Welcome back to everyone.

Bernadette Wright, the school’s Wellbeing Officer will be working in the school on a Monday, Thursday, Friday and every 2nd Wednesday this year. Bernadette once again will be working with teachers and students in classrooms with the Wellbeing Program during the day but there will be time available to catch up with students and parents. Parents wishing to contact Bernadette must ring or organise a time at the office.

If you have any concerns in relation to your child’s schooling, health, or any personal friendship or family issue please contact Corey Warne so that we can seek a solution or resolution on the issue.

**ASTHMA**

Can parents please ensure children who require a Ventolin inhaler at school bring one in a clearly labelled bag. Inhalers can be given to the class teacher.

**Please Note:** Can all parents please provide the school with an updated asthma plan for all students who are diagnosed with asthma. All plans should be handed in to the school office by **Monday 4th February**.

**SPECIMEN HILL PARENTING GROUP**

All Parents and families of the Specimen Hill Community are invited to come and join in the fun of the following workshops.

**WORKSHOP - 6th February**

9:00 - 9:45AM

PARENTS to meet in staff room.

Walking shoes will be required.

Short walk around the Golden Square area.

Morning Tea and Catch-up.

Main Workshop
(To be announced)

**CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS**

NAME: ..........................................................

CONTACT NO.: ...........................................................

PREFERRED DAY:  MONDAY / FRIDAY

**PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE PROGRAM**

Name: ..........................................................

Student: .......................................................... Grade

I am able to assist with the program on -

Day: .......................................................... (fortnightly)

**NEWSLETTERS & INFORMATION**

are available from our website:

www.shps1316.vic.edu.au

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!!**

**CANTEEN** : The school requires a number of volunteers in order for our Canteen to run successfully. Please consider assisting Karen Emerson if you are available on Monday or Friday mornings. No qualifications necessary, just a pair of helpful hands.

**HEAD LICE PROGRAM:**

In order to control Head Lice among school students (and families) we would like to conduct hair inspections at various times of the year. Any assistance would be appreciated.

PLEASE COMPLETED/VOLUNTEER FORMS BELOW AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE.
SCHOOL HATS ARE COMPULSORY FOR TERMS ONE & FOUR
WHERE IS YOUR HAT???
$10 FROM UNIFORM SHOP

The Bendigo Tennis Association will continue the delivery of MLC Tennis Hot Shots, the only modified tennis program endorsed by Tennis Australia. MLC Tennis Hot Shots targets players from 4 to 10 years of age, who are looking to develop their tennis skills.

Enrolment forms available from school office, or contact the Complex on 5442 5744.

FREE COME AND TRY
The BTA will hold a FREE a come and try day of Hot Shots on
Saturday 2nd February, 2013.

Three sessions will run from 9.30am, 10.00am and 10.30am with each session running from 30 minutes. Any students who are interested in coming to the FREE come and try are requested to book their space by contact the Complex on 5442 5744 or emailing info@bendigotennis.com.au

8 Week Program - Term 1 - 2013
The BTA will deliver an 8 week term program of Hot Shots Tennis, with the first class starting Tuesday 5th February, 2013. Participants attend one 40 minutes session per week, which will take students through the basics of tennis and match play. Times will be as follows:

- Tuesday 4.00pm – 4.40pm starts 05/2/2013
- Tuesday 4.40pm – 5.20pm starts 05/2/2013
- Wednesday 4.00pm - 4.40pm starts 06/2/2013
- Wednesday 4.40pm - 5.20pm starts 06/2/2013
- Thursday 4.00pm – 4.40pm starts 07/2/2013
- Thursday 4.40pm – 5.20pm starts 07/2/2013
- Saturday 9.00am - 9.40am starts 09/2/2013
- Saturday 9.40am – 10.20am starts 09/2/2013
- Saturday 10.20am – 11.00am starts 09/2/2013