Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

A wonderful and big thank you to the Parents and Friends Club for organising the Mother’s Day Stall on Friday. This small group of parents contribute so much to our school and community. There are many wonderful gifts for students to buy on Friday that parents are currently wrapping and pricing for the day.

Next week students in Years 3 & 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests. These tests are run Australia wide and test English, Numeracy, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation. Teachers have prepared all students so that they know what to expect. All that students can do is ‘their best’ on the day. Please ensure that you encourage them and ensure they arrive at school in a calm and rested state. These tests are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. An additional breakfast program will be run for students in Years 3-6 on Tuesday and Thursday. The normal program will run on Wednesday. Students sitting the tests will receive an information pamphlet about the tests. If there are any questions or concerns please contact your child’s teacher or myself.

Persistence is our value of the month. It is important that we encourage students to persist with tasks that they have started and things that they do not find easy. Making mistakes is part of life and should be considered as a learning opportunity, not as a failure. Often young children will enroll in a sporting team and decide half way through the season that they do not want to continue. It is important that you encourage your child to continue with something that they have made a commitment to and persist when things are not enjoyable or tough. It truly helps to build their character.

A reminder to encourage your child to enter through the side gates not the front door in the foyer. In the colder weather this becomes a real issue with the wind blowing through the corridor and creating a wind tunnel.

Thursday after school there will be a working bee to assist with tidying up the gardens. If you and your child/children could attend it would be greatly appreciated. At the moment there are plenty of autumn leaves blowing around and when wet, these can become a safety hazard. It is a great way to get to know others in our school community and contribute to the school.

If you know of any young children in your neighborhood who are ready to start school, please let them know that we are now conducting tours of the school and taking enrolments for Prep next year. Our Open Day will be on the Tuesday the 19th of May in Week 6.

We encourage all existing parents; grandparents; friends to come and visit the school during our Open Morning on Tuesday 19th May – students will be working in their classrooms until 10.00am; and then will be involved in Science Activities until 11.00am. There will be a morning tea available; and any visitors are welcome to bring their own food, and enjoy lunch with their children.

Our gym program concludes next Friday the 15th of May for students in Years 3-5. It has been highly successful and I have received positive feedback from staff and students. Thank you to Mr Broadbent for organising the program and also our Cross Country that was held on Friday.

Hoping all mothers have a fantastic day on Sunday that you are spoilt and treasured.

Wendy Jackson (Acting Principal)
SENIOR CLASSES
Greetings all. Gym continues this week and students will continue working hard in sessions on 3 key components; upper body strength, core strength and balance. They’re really enjoying the challenge and new experience. In Numeracy and Literacy we’re rounding out our NAPLAN preparation as actual testing happens next week. Preparation has been good, so best of luck to all next week. Refer to main newsletter items for school breakfasts happening the mornings of NAPLAN testing. It’s important (as always) that your child is well rested ahead of a solid week of focus. Stamina will need to be to the fore!!! Grade 6 students and their families will be given an opportunity to attend an information evening at their perspective secondary school for 2016 TONIGHT Wednesday, May the 06th. Our 3 Speci students and Miss Eastley head off to China at the end of this month. You can keep in tune with their international experience by logging into this Blog: http://specihillpstc.global2.vic.edu.au/ and post comments (appropriate ones) along the way. Now, the first person that tells Mr Pysing who the month of June was named after will win a Chocolate Frog! Rebecca, Sophie, Scott and Adam

MIDDLE CLASSES
Tissues—It is tissue time again. If everyone donated one box we will have plenty of nice tissues to get us through the term.

Gym Program—
Our Gym program is in its final weeks and has focused on such as upper body strength and balance. It has been wonderful to see all the students taking risks to extend themselves in new and challenging tasks.

Werribee Zoo Excursion—Many excursion notes have been returned ready for a day at the zoo. If you have not returned yours please do so ASAP. Or if you have concerns please contact your relevant teacher to discuss these.

Home Reading—Reading daily is extremely important to a child’s development. The more words a child reads, the more words they use in both their written and spoken vocabulary. Can parents please ensure that their children are being listened to at least five nights per week for approximately 20 minutes each night. This term the 3/4 department has organised to run a ‘Home Reading Competition’. Students will be required to return their home reading diaries daily, with teachers counting up how many nights students have read for in their class on a weekly basis. The winning class will receive a trophy for the week, as well as being celebrated at Assembly on Mondays. The class who has read for the most nights for the term will also receive a special celebration in the last week of term.

Homework—Each Friday your child will be given homework which is to be completed and returned to school the following Friday. This will give each child seven nights in which to work on the tasks.

Spelling: each child will have five words which they need to practise. They will need to complete the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check for their words. They also need to write each word in a sentence underlining the spelling word in colour. The children are expected to read for at least five nights each week and these are to be recorded in their Reading Diary.

Some children are coming to school on the Friday saying they didn’t have time to do their homework. Given that they have seven nights to work on it and it would take 30 minutes at the most to complete, it would seem that they haven’t organised their time very well. Please ensure your child has ample time to finish this important task. Failure to present finished homework will mean completing it during lunch time program.

Meals—As we are quickly heading towards the NAPLAN time can we please check that all students are eating a healthy breakfast each morning so they arrive with brains ready for learning. Eating a healthy and nutritious lunch each day at school is vital to both the physical and mental development of all students. Students need to be eating all of their lunch, especially the main part of their meal (sandwich, wrap, roll etc.). Can parents please reiterate the importance of this and we will continue to monitor students during eating times.

Integrated Studies
Our Integrated Studies topic this term is ‘Going going Gone.’ Over the course of the term students will be learning about endangered animals both across the world and locally. This will include our excursion to the Werribee Zoo and the creation of posters.

Please don’t hesitate making contact with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.
JULIAN REGAN, KIM MANLEY & HAYDEN POLGLASE

JUNIOR CLASS
Reading- Students are expected to be reading at home each night to an adult using the readers provided. Can parents please ensure that their student’s diary is filled out each time. This is to not only help keep track of their progress, but also so that they don’t miss out on reading incentives, such as awards and prizes.

Spelling- Just a reminder that students have individualised spelling words that they should be bringing home to practice each week. These words need to be practiced regularly to be prepared for their spelling day each week, as set by their classroom teacher/s. Your child should be bringing an orange spelling book home with their spelling words. If this is not happening, could you please contact your child’s teacher.

Communication Journals— By now, students’ communication journals should have all been sent out by their teachers. These journals are there to provide a ‘snap-shot’ to parents of their child’s learning in the classroom. Once parents (and grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) have finished reading the journals, could they please be returned to class so that they can continue to be added to.

Nude Food— A reminder to parents that Thursdays are “nude food” day. The aim is for students to have no wrappers in their lunch box. We recommend foods that don’t require wrapping or can be placed into reusable sandwich bags eg; fruit and chopped veggies. Through doing this, we are trying to promote healthier lunches for our students. The class with the lowest amount of wrappers wins an award at assembly each week, and we are determined to finally beat Mrs Manley’s class!

Communication Journals—Great to see the positive comments parents have written in their students books. Please return these books to school ASAP.

PREP NEWS
Integrated Unit: Fantasy is our theme this term. We are having lots of fun reading, writing and learning about dragons, kings, princesses etc. This week we are making dragons and treasure boxes. If your child has not yet brought in a box for this activity, please do so by THURSDAY.

Communication Journals: Great to see the positive comments parents have written in their students books. Please return these books to school ASAP.

Learning this week: The word “at”. The sounds Ff and Aa.

Share in the Chair: This is every Monday just before Whole School Assembly.

Some students love to bring something from home. Please don’t allow them to bring anything too valuable or precious.

Library Sessions: Please make sure your child has their library bag and book on a Thursday for our weekly library session.

Drop off time: This has been very positive and we have many students coming into the classroom on their own in a happy and calm manner. Please continue to push this, as it is great for their independence.

iPads Next week we will be having the ipads in the classroom. We are timetabled for 1 hour per week. During this time students will explore apps, which will be lots of fun.

Word list Students should have their own word list in their reader bags. This is on a blue laminated card. Please practise these words regularly with your child. 

Till next time, Joan & Emily

Our children’s future in the very best of hands……………….
We are acknowledging students with awards, to those who display and follow our school values.

VALUE OF THE MONTH: PERSISTENCE

Students who displayed this value in an outstanding manner last week:

TAHLIA C., CHANTELL E.
WILL J., RYAN M., LOGAN K.
ZOE B.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 1st of April, on a lovely autumn afternoon, Specimen Hill Primary School had their Grade 3 – 6 Cross Country. It was fantastic to see all the students participating and trying their best, with those who competed last year all striving to improve their times. Many achieved excellent results.

I was very impressed with the students during the run, but also very pleased when they completed the cross country as they sat and watched all the other students run back into the school grounds and cheered and supported their school mates. This showed some great teamwork and sportsmanship.

It was also wonderful to see the Prep students with Mrs Mullen and Ms Hill cheering on the students as they ran past the front of the school - again displaying the supportive and encouraging environment at Specimen Hill.

Overall it was a successful Cross Country and all the students did very well and should be proud of their efforts.

The students who finished first in each age group:

9 Year Old Boys – Mikai C; 9 Year Old Girls – Bronte B
10 Year Old Boys – Bailey C; 10 Year Old Girls – Makenze T
11 Year Old Boys – Mitchell R; 11 Year Old Girls – Georgia W
12 Year Old Boys – Sean B; 12 Year Old Girls – Tiarni B

The top 6 students from each age group will be going to the next stage which is the Campaspe Goldfields Sandhurst Division Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 27th of May. We are sure they will represent Specimen Hill Primary School extremely well.

Todd Broadbent, PE Teacher

STARS OF THE WEEK 4TH MAY

Room 1  Taylah S.
Room 2  Bonnie K.
Room 3  Isabella L.
Room 4  Malakye C
Room 5  Josephine P
Room 6  Freya W.
Room 7  Jordyn A.
Room 8  Rohan T.
Room 9  Lachie N.
Room 10 Hayley P.
Room 11 Jasmin B
Room 12 Tiarni B.
Room 13 Mikayla L.

3/4 Reading Challenge

WORKING BEE
THURSDAY 7TH MAY 3.30 - 5.00 PM

We are looking forward to a great turn up by all families to our first Specimen Hill Working Bee of 2015. With many willing helpers we will have our children’s learning and playing environment looking amazing.

Bring along gardening gloves and any equipment you could use for weeding and general gardening and maintenance.

NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH -

Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................
2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am Running Club</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>8:15am Breakfast Program</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Walking School Bus</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Gym Program Gr 3 - 6</td>
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<td>Tues 6th May</td>
<td>Year 7 – 2016 College Information night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 7th May</td>
<td>Working Bee 3.30-5.00pm</td>
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<td>Fri 8th May</td>
<td>Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<td>Tues 19th May</td>
<td>School Open Day 9.00am-11.30am</td>
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<td>Fri 28th May</td>
<td>Chinese Exchange Depart</td>
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**FRIDAY 8TH MAY**

**MOTHERS DAY STALL**

Volunteers are required for the day of the stall.

Please leave your name and contact number at the office.

**DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT THE OFFICE**

Items for the stall will be priced from $1.00 - $5.00

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**OPEN DAY TUES 19TH MAY**

**9.00am—11.30am**

The school open day is an opportunity for future families to inspect the school and view our fabulous facilities.

If you know of any children who are due to enrol at primary school next year, please encourage the family to come along and have a guided tour of the school & discuss our curriculum.

All visitors should present to the school office to be included in tours, conducted by Junior School Council members.

**INFORMATION EVENING—Preps 2016**

**THURS 21ST MAY**

**6:00PM**

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**SCHOOL VALUES: Resilience, Excellence, Persistence, Honesty & Respect**