Dear Parents,

It was great to welcome our 2009 Preps to Speci for their final orientation day in 2008. It was also the day that our Year 6 students spent a day at their Secondary College for next year. We also took the opportunity to have all students move to their new areas for next year. This is part of our transition for all students. We will also conduct another two hour session for students next Tuesday (9.12.08). Students will not be in their grades for next year but just moving randomly to the new environment for 2009 - especially students in Years Prep, Year 2 and Year 4.

Thank you to staff for the preparation and organization required to ensure these students have a smooth transition in 2009. Thanks also to our buddies for next year. They have already done a fantastic job in helping our new Preps settle into school life.

PARENT HELPERS MORNING TEA (10.12.08)
Each year we like to formally recognise the many hours of voluntary work parents and friends of the school contribute to making our school a better place. If you have helped out at Speci in anyway during 2008 you are invited to come along and share a morning tea which will be provided for you. The Morning Tea will be held in the staff room from 11:15am on Wednesday 10.12.08.

If you are unable to attend, please accept our sincere thanks for supporting the children at Specimen Hill P.S. and understand you have made a positive difference to their lives. Thank you!

Farewell Kate & Katrina
Unfortunately we are saying farewell to Kate Fogarty and Katrina Butcher at the end of this year. Both have been outstanding young teachers at our school and will be sadly missed. Kate and Katrina have both been successful in gaining ongoing employment with the Department of Education at Kangaroo Flat P.S. We are pleased for them as this secures their futures in teaching.

Well done Kate and Katrina!

STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards were presented on Monday 1st December to:

PF - Chara S
PG - Michael C
1/2 B - Grace N
1/2 H - Jeremy W
1/2 M Y - Josie H
1/2 SR - Chelsea C
3/4CB - Rikki W
3/4KB - Alidia F
3/4C - Mikhaela C & Daniel S
3/4J - Haylee L
5/6B - Kyle W
5/6M - Ben M
5/6S - Jordan H

Principal’s Award - Kaitlyn R (5/6B)
After School Care Award - David S (3/4B)
Super Clubs Plus (site of the week) - Amy P (3/4B)

Congratulations to all these students for their achievements & contributions!

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF FOR 2007
Just recently we have been through a selection process for two vacant teaching positions for 2009. The successful applicants were: Ms. Julie Quinlan and Ms. Natalie Gleeson.

Congratulations to both and we look forward to working with them in 2009.
OUTSTANDING SCHOOL ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID
Could all parents who have outstanding accounts for school activities please ensure you pay these before the end of the school year. For example - school camps, excursions and school materials.

END OF YEAR REPORTS
Teachers have been in the process of completing end of year reports. Di and I will take part in reading these reports in the coming weeks. At this stage, reports will be sent home in the last week of Term.

Dates to Remember...
- Mon 8 Dec - School Council dinner meeting
- Tues 9 Dec - Year Prep –5 transition morning
- Wed 10 Dec - Parent Helpers morning tea
- Tues 16 Dec - Year 6 Graduation
- Thur 18 Dec - Music share
- Thur 18 Dec - Last day for students - 3:15 finish
- Fr 19 Dec - Proposed Planning Day 2009

2009
Teachers Start - Wednesday 28th January. The next three days have been allocated as Curriculum Days through the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiated this year for teachers. Note: The only other Curriculum Day for the year is June 12.

Mon 2 Feb - First day of school Year 1 to 6
Mon-Wed.-2/4 Feb - Prep Interviews (individual appointments)
Thurs 5 Feb - First day Preps
Fri 3 April - Last day of Term 1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
“No one fails when they do their best!”
Doug Jones
Principal

Christmas Gift Giving
Dear Parents,
Over the past 2 years the whole school has been involved in donating and packaging up Christmas Hampers for drought stricken families in Victoria. This has been a most generous and heart-warming event demonstrating the generosity of the Specimen Hill community. All of the hampers have been warmly received by many families. This year the Wellbeing Committee wish to continue along similar lines but instead of Christmas Hampers we are seeking gifts including adult gifts - male and female, children’s gifts - male and female, and Christmas items for all ages such as bon bons, mince pies, shortbreads, vouchers etc. All gifts should be left unwrapped so that the Salvation Army volunteers can allocate suitable items as required. These items will then be distributed to needy individuals and families to help make their Christmas a happier occasion. All items can be brought to your child’s classroom to be collected by Thursday 11th December.

Thankyou for your continued support,
Di Craig

EXCURSION CREDIT REFUNDS
Your child has been sent home a letter indicating their excursion credit balance for 2008. Could parents please indicate how they would like to spend the remainder of this excursion credit. The options are:
- Transfer balance to 2009
- Cheque refund to you
- Donation to the school

We would like to finalise all accounts by Friday 12th December. If your note is not returned by this date we will take it that your credit will be a donation to the school.

If you would like an itemised account of how your child’s excursion credit was used please see Kaye or Belinda in the office.

CLASS NEWS

SENIOR NEWS
GRADE 5/6 NEWS
Dance continues fantastically and is nearing the end. All of the groups are perfecting their dances. Graduation dinner is approaching fast. Could all children ensure that their payments are made by Friday 5th December.

End of the year is coming up and with that comes the end of year concert - all of the performances are being perfected.

Grade 5/6 News Team

GRADE 3/4 NEWS
All students participated in their first transition day yesterday - testing the waters for 2009. They will have another 2 hour session next Tuesday.

The Action Groups continue to be extremely successful. The Paper Group has been making paper. The Worm Group is busy collecting food for their creatures. The Chicken Group has planted some vegie seeds. The Revegetation Group has planted lots of new plants in the garden outside 3/4C. Ask your child about what he/she has been doing. We are all learning new things.

Library books need to be returned please in readiness for stock take at the end of the year.

Wendy, Craig, Katrina & Lorraine
**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3rd Dec</td>
<td>Tricia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 4th Dec</td>
<td>Tricia, Cheryl B-S &amp; Liz M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5th Dec</td>
<td>Nicole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 9th Dec</td>
<td>Maree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10th Dec</td>
<td>Tricia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 11th Dec</td>
<td>Tricia, Martine and Margaret S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12th Dec</td>
<td>Sheridan</td>
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</tbody>
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**PERFORMING ARTS**

Our **ARTS Share** at the end of the year is on **Thursday 18th December** in the Multi-purpose Room - commencing at 12:00pm.  
*We promise an extravaganza like you've never seen before!!*

Julian Regan

**GENERAL NEWS**

**CANTEEN NEWS**

There will be no canteen during the last week of school!

**CANTEEN MENU**

The Canteen Menu is now available to peruse on the School’s website [www.shps1316.vic.edu.au](http://www.shps1316.vic.edu.au)

**2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

Grades 1 to 6 will begin the 2009 school year on Monday 2nd February. Preps will begin on Thursday 5th February. The office will be open from Thursday 22nd January.

**COMMUNITY NOTICE**

**Kangaroo Flat Community House**

21 Woolcock Ave, Kangaroo Flat  
5447 9687

During January 2009 the Kangaroo Flat Community House will provide summer school lessons for students from prep to year 10. If your child has a reading, maths, spelling or other English problem - or you may just wish them to have a flying start for the coming year - get your child involved. Please call the office during business hours for any enquiries (leave a message) or call Michael directly on: 0413 116 096

**MONDAY LADIES NETBALL AT THE SCHWEPPES CENTRE**

Have a spare hour on Monday mornings and have been thinking about playing netball?

Then why not join our competition by getting together a team or joining one of the many teams already playing. All grades are catered for with the competition starting February 2009

Free crèche is provided  
For more information please ring:  
Marj: 5443 7379 or Dianne: 5442 1715

**Food For Thought**

**Specimen Hill PS Recipe Book**

Over 100 recipes  
Dinner, Lunch, Cakes and Slices  
Soups, Desserts and lots more…

*A great gift idea.*

Order forms available in class rooms and at the office

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*Presented by the Kangaroo Flat Lions Club*

Carols this year will be held at

**Dower Park Football Oval**

**Tuesday 9th December**  
**7:30pm**

Contact Lion Barry Naylor on: 5447 2199

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*Our children’s future in the very best of hands...............*
**YMCA HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

**Days of Program:**
22nd, 23rd & 24th December
5th January to 30th January

**Hours of Program:**
8am - 6pm everyday

**Cost of Program:**
$37.50 per child per day
(Centrelink Child Care Benefit available)

**Bookings:**
Now open. Call 5447 1444 or drop into
Kangaroo Flat YMCA
9 Browning St, Kangaroo Flat

**Activities:**
Melbourne Aquarium, IMAX, Dizzy’s Castle,
Discovery Centre, Oz Maze, Echuca Cinema,
Bendigo Cinema, Kyabram Fauna Park,
The Zone, Pool Party/Disco

www.bendigo.ymca.org.au

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**YMCA AQUASAFE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

This swimming safety program will run through January at the following venues:

- Bendigo Leisure Centre YMCA
- Bendigo Aquatic Centre
- Kangaroo Flat Pool
- Brennan Park Pool
- Inglewood Pool

The program runs over 5 days with each session lasting 30 minutes.

**Cost is $45 plus daily pool admission.**

To book or enquire please contact the Bendigo Leisure Centre YMCA on 5446 9222

www.bendigo.ymca.org.au

“We build strong people, strong families, strong communities”

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**FIVE-A-SIDE INDOOR SOCCER**

**Friday Night Games from 4.30pm**

Flora Hill Stadium
Ellis Street, Flora Hill

**All Age Groups, Male & Female**

Bring your friends. Make your own team.

All enquires, please call Rosalie on:
0407 675 384
or email
rosalie@vikingsfutsal.com

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**OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE NEWS**

For bookings/cancellations (to be made before 11am)
phone Rachel on 0414 068 475

**Program:**
Thurs 4th December: Fruit/Quiet Play
Fri 5th December: Chips/Movie
Mon 8th December: Fruit Platter/Games
Tue 9th December: Sandwiches/Paper Christmas Trees
Wed 10th December: Fruit & Veg Sticks/Fun in the Multi

Vacancies are now available
Monday through Friday.

**BEFORE SCHOOL CARE NEWS**

Before School Care is running each morning from
6:30 to 8:40 in the school library.
Please contact Adele on 0438 062 561 for bookings and information.
Our children’s future in the very best of hands..............
Our children’s future in the very best of hands.................