Dear Parents,

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS!
Congratulations to our school orienteering team who after many weeks of competition have won the Primary School event. This was a great team effort! Well done to Jess F, Amanda M, Mychael B, Ben M and Emily P. They have been well supported by staff members: Jenny Ball and Trevor Meehan.

CHOIR SINGS IN ABC COMPETITION
Thanks to Ms MacDonald for entering the school choir in the ABC radio choir competition again this year. From what I heard while recording, they should do well! A surprise this year will be a recording of the staff singing also! Well done to the choir, Ms. MacDonald and guitar/sound and recording support from Mr. Barker.

HAYLEE’S BIG DAY OUT
Thanks to Mrs. Craig and the Junior School Council for organizing a special day for Haylee L. This is a day for Haylee and the students to enjoy and have fun. It is not intended as a polish concert - that will be next week at our Performing Arts share day (18th Dec).

STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards were presented on
Monday 1st December to:
PF - Nakia W
PG - Grace W
1/2 B - Jackson E
1/2 H - Indianna W
1/2 M Y - Barnaby N
1/2 SR - Blake Mc
3/4CB - Shelby L
3/4KB - Mason S
3/4C - Emma B
3/4J - Dylan C
5/6S - Thomas W

Principal’s Award - Paris S (1/2B)
After School Care Award Becky S (5/6B)

Super Clubs Plus - Cassandra W (3/4B)
Congratulations to all these students for their achievements & contributions!

Dates to Remember...
Fri 12 Dec - Letters regarding Excursion Levies to be returned
Tues 16 Dec - Year 6 Graduation 6pm
Thur 18 Dec - Music share 12 noon, Multi
Thur 18 Dec - Last day for students - 3:15 finish
Fr 19 Dec - Planning Day 2009 (No school, OSHC available)

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

STAFFING FOR 2009
Prep:
Julie Quinlan and Kylie Gould
Prep / Year 1:
Jenny Ball
Year 1/2:
Teresa Smart / Corey Warne, Lisa Maxwell / Sandy Young and Katie Heard
Year 3/4:
Wendy Jackson, Craig Barker, Lorraine Campbell and Natalie Gleeson
Year 5/6:
Allan Sing, Sally Brown and Lee MacDonald

LOTE:
Helen Turpie (Indonesian)
Art:
Helen Turpie
Performing Arts:
Julian Reagan
Our children's future in the very best of hands.................

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PE & Sport:
Corey Warne

Library (manager):
Sandy Young

Reading Recovery / Early Years support:
Julian Regan and Judy Bainbridge

Bursar:
Kaye Blackley

Office support:
TBA

Integration support:
Karen Emerson and Leah Johns (others TBA)

OHSC:
Rachel Frappell, Leah Johns, Karen Emerson (others TBA)

Assistant Principal:
Di Craig

Principal:
Doug Jones

TBA = To be appointed

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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
The most precious of all possessions is a wise and loyal friend

Doug Jones
Principal

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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.

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Farewell To Robyn

We would like to say a special farewell to Robyn Grubb who has been one of our Primary Wellbeing Officers at Speci Hill over the past few years.

In 2008 Robyn worked primarily with the children from years Prep to Grade 2 but in previous years she worked with students from all levels across the school.

Robyn is a very joyful, colourful and vibrant person who has made a huge contribution towards the Wellbeing of many of the students and families in our school community. She is passionate towards assisting every child to make the right choices, to get along with each other, to share their concerns and to help them to be as happy and safe and secure as possible.

We wish Robyn all the best for her future and sincerely thank her for all that she has given to the community at Specimen Hill PS.

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THE JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL FEATURING

Haylee's Fun Day!

WHAT: Children's Concert featuring great acts by the wonderful children at Speci. Followed by a movie afternoon.

WHEN: Friday 12th December starting at 12pm

WHO: The concert and movie is for the children of Specimen Hill only

WHY: To celebrate a special day for Haylee Lester

SPECIAL: This will be an out of uniform day. Dress in casual clothes.

No cost involved
Free icy poles on the day
Lucky door prizes!

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Christmas Gift Giving
A huge thank you to the many families who have donated gifts and Christmas goods for the Farmers Drought Relief Christmas Appeal. Your generosity will help to make Christmas extra special for other families in need.

The gifts have been collected in all classrooms and if you wish to donate you have until Friday 12th December when they will be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution.

Suggestions for gifts: Christmas food products eg: cakes, puddings, short breads etc. Gifts for both male and female adults. Gifts for children of all ages (all gifts should remain unwrapped). Thank you for your continued support.

Di Craig
PARENT HELPERS MORNING TEA
Thankyou very much to the staff at Speci Hill for putting on the lovely morning tea for the parent helpers. Your acknowledgement is much appreciated. It’s a shame some of the parents missed out!

CLASS NEWS

SENIOR NEWS
GRADE 5/6 NEWS
Grade 6 will visit Lilley Lodge on Thursday to share with the elderly residents.
Things are well underway for the Graduation Dinner. Please make sure all outstanding payments are made promptly to assist with final catering arrangements.
Last dance teaching session will be next week.

Grade 5/6 News Team

GRADE 3/4 NEWS
Our unit “Waste Not, Want Not” is in full swing. The revegetation and watering group has been working hard weeding, planting and re-potting our seedlings.
The worm group has been teaching the Prep - 2 students how to build a worm farm and the difference between organic and inorganic waste.
The paper group has been working hard on producing home made paper. We have been using waste paper produced from the classrooms to make our own paper. A very involved process.
The chicken and vegie group has enjoyed looking after the Chinese silky chickens; checking for eggs and keeping up their food and water. We have also planted some seeds and seedlings for the vegie patch including some Queensland Blue Pumpkins and some flowers to brighten up the area.
Grades 3/4B, 3/4C, 3/4J and 3/4K will be having a combined unit party on Tuesday morning December 16. Could your child please bring a small plate of food to share?
Please return all readers and library books by this Friday.

Wendy, Craig, Katrina & Lorraine

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

CURRICULUM NEWS
Student reports will be sent home early next week. Please be aware that children progress at different rates and reports should be read accordingly. Congratulate your child on his/her achievements during 2008. The yellow band © is the standard expected at this time of the year.
Education is a partnership between home and school so, as well as explaining what your child has achieved, the report also contains tips for future learning at both school and home.
The number of absences listed on the report is for the period July to November inclusive.
The Extra Curricular Activities vary according to the grade level of your child. You child’s participation is indicated by a “star.
If there are any queries regarding reports please see me or your child’s teacher.

Lorraine Campbell (Curriculum Coordinator)

SCHOOL BANKING
School Banking has finished for the year. Thankyou to those families who use this facility.

Lorraine Campbell (Banking Coordinator)

CURRICULUM DAY
Friday 19th December will be a pupil free day. Out of Ours School Care will be operating on that day from 8am till 6pm. (Please be aware that Before School Care will not be running.) Interested parents please contact Rachel on 0414 068 475 to make a booking.

PHYS ED NEWS
Big Thanks!
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parent helpers who have assisted in the running of the various sports teams/events that have operated throughout 2008.
A big thanks must go to the parents who volunteered to coach the school netball teams throughout the year in both the Winter and Twilight seasons. Without the coaches these teams would not operate. Thanks!
Thanks must also go to various other parents who have assisted in the running of these teams by either scoring or providing valued support.

FOUND
Found in Inglewood St a silver jewellery box. Please contact the office.

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
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.

LIBRARY!
All borrowing is finished for another year. Can parents please help children return all books to school immediately.
Thankyou,
Sandy


BABY MICE
Baby mice, three weeks old. If anyone is interested please ring after 4:30pm on 5441 6921. Black, dark brown and black and white available.

LONG SLEEVE POLO SHIRTS
Available are long sleeve polo shirts in size 12, 10, 8 and 6 for $5 each. Please ring Emma Eddy on 0418 350 408 to enquire.

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10th December</td>
<td>Tricia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 11th December</td>
<td>Tricia, Martine and Margaret S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12th December</td>
<td>Sheridan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 FRIENDS AT YMCA AQUASAFE
YMAC 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

FOR BOOKINGS/CANCELLATIONS (TO BE MADE BEFORE 11AM)
Phone Rachel on 0414 068 475

PROGRAM:
Thurs 11th December: Biscuits & Dip/Movable Santa
Fri 12th December: Popcorn/Movie
Mon 15th December: Rice Snacks & Dip/Reindeer Candy Cane Craft
Tue 16th December: Fruit & Yoghurt/Music Games
Wed 17th December: Kabana, Cheese, Biscuits & Dip/Melted Snowman

OUR LIBRARY!
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Thankyou,
Sandy

Out of School Hours Care News
For bookings/cancellations (to be made before 11am)
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Program:
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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

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

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 of drop into Kangaroo Flat YMCA
9 Browning St, Kang/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

Keyboard Lessons

New Enrolments are currently being accepted for Term 1, 2009. At only $10.90 per lesson, this keyboard music program is great value!!!

Enrolment forms are available from keyboard music teachers, the school office or you can enroll electronically on our website – www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au,

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 below 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.

(Please note: It is not sufficient for this advice to be communicated to the school or keyboard teacher)

The Primary Music Institute wishes all families a safe and musical holiday!!!

Primary Music Institute
PO Box 40
Red Hill QLD 4059
Tel 1300 764 877  Fax 1300 764 674

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