



Specimen Hill Primary School
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Principal: Jac Louttit
Acting Assistant Principal: Hayden Polglase



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

Thursday 8th February 2024

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the 2024 school year at Specimen Hill Primary School. In addition to welcoming back families who have had children at our school previously, I would like to extend a special welcome to new families to our school. I hope that you and your children enjoy a long and happy association with Specimen Hill Primary School. This year we welcome 30 preps and 5 new students in Grades 1 to 6 who started this year. Thank you to all of our families for such a wonderful start to the year.

School Council Elections 2024

This is a notice of Election and call for Nominations.

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Specimen Hill Primary School.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the school or downloaded from our [website](#) and must be lodged by 4 pm on 15th February 2023.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Parent Member: 4

School Employee Member Position: 3

Term of Office

From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

For more information: [Parent Fact Sheet](#)

Canteen

We welcome our new canteen manager, Kirsten Boyd. The school canteen will open this Friday and will operate every **Wednesday** and **Friday** this year. Orders can be made through the QKR! App, orders close at 8:30am on the day of order. You can also do a cash order, please have the correct change. If you pre-order and your child is absent, please contact the school to cancel or move the order to a new day. If you do not notify the school if your child is absent there will be no carryover of the order or refund of the school.

Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [School's Privacy Policy](#).

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages.

Sentral Parent App

Sentral is our student management system that we use to communicate with our families. If you are not currently registered with Sentral we will send out registration letters and access keys. Sentral has two platforms, the [Sentral Parent Portal](#) (logging in from a web browser) and the Sentral Parent App. If you need help please contact the office.

Specimen Hill Primary School is committed to the Child Safe Standards

Absences

Please let the school know as soon as possible and explain why your child can't come to school. You can do this by calling the school, emailing the class teacher, Sentral Parent App or replying to the absence SMS that Sentral sends out each morning if your child has an unexplained absence.

Assembly

Our whole school assembly is now held every Friday afternoon from 2:15pm -2:45pm in either the Multipurpose Room or on the Basketball Court (weather permitting). We welcome parents and our school community.

Newsletter

The newsletter will now be published fortnightly on a Thursday. We will publish a shorter bulletin announcing award winners and important reminders every other Thursday.

Awards

Our Student of the Week award winners will be published in the Thursday newsletter or bulletin and awarded at the following day at Assembly. Our awards are selected by classroom and specialist teachers to students who have been demonstrating our school values. All parents and carers are welcome to attend our Friday afternoon assembly and students are thrilled to have parents and carers there when they receive an award.

Our school values are:

Empathy, Excellence, Honesty, Resilience and Respect.

Parents and Friends AGM

Our Parents and Friends group support the school in many ways throughout the year. They assist with running photo days, colour run, pie drive and other fundraisers that assist our school to provide the best outdoor environment and playgrounds with the money they raise. They are always welcoming new members and many hands make light work. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16th February in the Staffroom at 2:45pm, all welcome. For more information, please contact Stacey in the office.

Playgroup

Playgroup is run by Chloe Hickey on Monday mornings in the multipurpose room from 9am -11am. All families with children under school age are welcome with a supervising adult attending with them. Tea and coffee are provided as well as lots of fun and engaging activities for the little ones.

Parent Teacher Interviews

This term we will be conducting parent teacher interviews on

Wednesday 27th March from 12pm – 7pm.

Interviews will be 15 minutes and will be an opportunity for your child's classroom teacher to share your child's progress and discuss future learning goals. Students are expected to attend the interviews with their parent/carer in full school uniform for the interview only. *Please keep an eye out in future newsletter for when the bookings will open.*

Camp Australia OSCH will be available if they have staff.

Bookings will be made via the Sentral Parent App.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline, and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year. [Download form](#)

CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING - CODE RED DAY

Fire Danger Ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

A small number of schools on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), including our own, will be closed on all Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days.

Once we are advised of a CATASTROPHIC Fire Danger Rating day, we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day via email and SMS.

It is important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days when the school is closed due to a forecast of Extreme Fire Danger Rating day.
- Outside School-Hours Care (OSHC) will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps may be cancelled if a forecast CATASTROPHIC Fire Danger Rating Day is made by Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

Voluntary Fees

As you are aware, the School Council sets an annual Voluntary Fee of \$100 per student. While payment of this fee is voluntary, the willingness of many members of our school community to support our school by paying this fee is greatly appreciated. The payment of these fees certainly enables us to enhance both the internal and external environments at our school in ways that would be outside our reach otherwise. Our school is well-resourced both in the classrooms and in the playgrounds. We have been able to achieve and maintain these resources in no small part, using money received via payment of Voluntary Fees. Again, this support from our school community is greatly appreciated.

Uniform

New and secondhand uniforms are available at the school office. Please remember to label all uniforms, our lost property is in the hallway outside the art room for items found in the schoolyard. It is wonderful to see almost all our students wearing our school uniform each day. We understand that there are times when students may not be wearing full school uniform, please email your child's classroom teacher on these occasions.

Parking and Student Safety

Student safety is a priority at Speci. When driving and parking around the school grounds please drive slowly around and be aware that it is a 40kph zone. Please park in marked parking spaces only and be patient when dropping off and picking up your child/ren. Bendigo Council often patrol the area and is known to hand out fines.

Family Picnic

We are excited to invite our school families to bring their own chairs, blankets and picnic to a family picnic to be held this **Tuesday February 27th February 5:00pm – 6:30pm** in the oval area of the school. This is a wonderful opportunity for our new parents to meet our current families. Please note that staff are invited as well but supervision will be the responsibility of parents and carers. No alcohol is permitted at this event and smoking/vaping is not permitted on site.



SPECI STUDENT AWARDS

Term 1 Week 2 – Awards presented at Friday Assembly 2:15pm

Empathy**Excellence****Honesty****Resilience****Respect**

Grade	Student of the Week
Prep/One – Room 1	Harrison W
Prep – Room 2	Kaylem G
Grade 1/2 - Room 3	Marty W
Grade 1/2 - Room 4	Felicity P
Grade 1/2 - Room 5	Amber M-S
Grade 1/2 - Room 6	
Grade 3/4 – Room 7	Lachlan B
Grade 3/4 - Room 8	Emily W
Grade 5/6 - Room 9	William P
Grade 5/6 - Room 10	Nate T
Grade 5/6 - Room 11	Savannah B
Grade 5/6 - Room 12	Lily H
Grade 5/6 - Room 13	Flynn O
Physical Education	
Art	Talon D – Room 7
Music	Logan B – Room 5
ICT	
Chinese	
Circus	Zane S – Room 11
Principal's Award	Ava E – Room 6

House Colours

This term, students and staff will be participating in two major events for our school Houses which are the School Athletics Day and the School Cross Country. Both events will include all students throughout the school and were fabulously celebrated last year. We look forward to even bigger and brighter events this year and encourage all students to participate in dressing up and getting into the Speci Spirit while enjoying both days.

School Cross Country – 6th March 2024

School Athletics Day - 26th March 2024

Classroom teachers will be letting students know what House name and colour they are in next week which will allow families to find some items of clothing that match their House and can be worn at the end of this term during Athletics and Cross Country. The House that has the most colourful participants and displays the best enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and spirit over the two events will receive the Spirit Cup, which is currently on display in our school foyer. We look forward to seeing students in their colours later this term and throughout the year.

Specimen Hill PS Houses

Deborah

Tyson

Lansell

Fortuna

House Captain Elections

This is an initiative that we incorporated into our leadership program last year and we had outstanding House Captains led their Houses. All Grade 5/6 students are eligible to be elected with there being two captains per House to be elected. One boy and one girl representative are to be voted for in each house.

Qualities of a House Captain

- ✓ Strong School Spirit
- ✓ Displays Leadership potential
- ✓ Demonstrates Sportsmanship towards all
- ✓ Encouragement of others
- ✓ Role model for all students

Role of a House Captain

- ✓ Represents the school in a positive manner
- ✓ Create Sports Reports placed in Newsletter after events.
- ✓ Potentially help organise other House events throughout the year.

Students will discuss this during class, and they will meet in their House colours to present a speech on why they should be the successful applicant. Voting is to be tallied and confirmed by school staff at a whole school assembly.

TERM 1 DATES**2024****FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 14 th Feb	Whole Day	Prep Rest Day
Friday 9 th February	Order by 8:30am	Canteen First Day Open – order on QKR app
Wednesday 14 th February	Order by 8:30am Whole Day	Canteen– order on QKR app Prep Rest Day
Friday 16 th February	2:45pm	Parents & Friends AGM - Staffroom
Friday 16 th February		Free Sausage Sizzle – no canteen today
Wednesday 21 st February	2:15pm	Parents & Friends Committee Meeting - Staffroom
Wednesday 21 st February	Whole Day	Prep Rest Day
Monday 26 th February	7:00pm	School Council AGM - Staffroom
Tuesday 27 th February	5:00pm-6:30pm	Family Picnic– School Oval
Wednesday 28 th February	Whole Day	Prep Rest Day

MARCH

Wednesday 6 th March	TBC	School Cross Country
Friday 8 th March	Whole Day	Divisional Volleyball – Selected Students
Monday 11 th March	Whole Day	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 13 th March		NAPLAN Writing – Grade 3 and Grade 5
Thursday 14 th March		NAPLAN Reading – Grade 3 and Grade 5
Tuesday 19 th March		NAPLAN Language Conventions – Grade 3 and Grade 5
Wednesday 20 th March		NAPLAN Numeracy – Grade 3 and Grade 5
Wednesday 20 th March	2:15pm	Parents & Friends Committee Meeting - Staffroom
Friday 22 nd March	2:15-3:15pm	Colour Fun Run
Monday 25 th March	7:00pm	School Council - Staffroom
Tuesday 26 th March	Whole Day	School Athletics – La Trobe University Athletics Complex
Wednesday 27 th March	12:00pm-7:00pm	Parent Teacher Interviews – Students to attend Interview
Thursday 28 th March		Easter Egg Hunt run by Parents & Friends
Thursday 28 th March	2:30pm	Last Day of Term 1 – Early Dismissal
Friday 29 th March – Sunday 14 th April	Whole Day	School Holidays
Monday 15 th April	9:00am	Term 2 Begins



Get your Colour on, Specimen Hill Primary School is hosting a Colour Explosion Run 4 Fun!

Our Colour Explosion Run 4 Fun will be on 22nd March 2024 from 2:15pm.

Not only are we hosting an awesome Colour Explosion Run 4 Fun, Students can order up to a total of 5 prizes based on their donations received. They can even mix and match! Don't want the prizes, donate your donations to one of the five causes – Carbon Neutral (tree planting), Great Barrier Reef Foundation (coral planting or turtle protection), The Smith Family (reading support) or OzHarvest (providing meals).

Students have received a sponsorship book with instructions on setting up their cybersafe, online fundraising profile at www.australianfundraising.com.au. This is an entirely online fundraiser; all cash donations must be delivered to the School Office before 3:15pm on the 22nd March 2024 to redeem your prizes.

Extra Incentives to Fundraise!

- ★ Online Golden Coins – complete fun online tasks to redeem an extra \$75 towards your prize credit.
- ★ Monty the Monstar's Bonus Prizes – achieve milestones to unlock Monty's bonus prizes.
- ★ \$10,000 Budget Booster Bonanza Spending Spree for one organisation's highest fundraising student
- ★ Our school will win an extra \$5,000 if we have the highest average fundraised amount per student in 2024.
- ★ A Play Station 5 Gaming Bundle – see your child's sponsorship booklet for more!

For more information, please contact the Office on 5443 5353.

Happy fundraising!

Playgroup Meets Here!



A playgroup is a group of parents and caregivers who gather with their babies, toddlers and preschool children regularly for play and social interaction.

Our Playgroup Details

Playgroup Name: Spec Playgroup

Day & Time: Mondays 9-11am

Contact Details: 5443 5353 (Run by Chloe Hickey)

Description: Come & Play in the Multi Purpose Room
Lots of toys and a fun craft activity
Tea and Coffee provided but please bring a snack
No Fees & No Obligations
Bubble time at the end of every session



 playgroup.org.au  [@playgroupvicofficial](https://www.instagram.com/playgroupvicofficial)

 1800 171 882  [/playgroupvic](https://www.facebook.com/playgroupvic)

