



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 22nd February 2024

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our students have embraced their learning over the last four weeks and staff have established routines in classrooms, expectations and are working hard to ensure that our students are learning and displaying our school values of empathy, excellence, honesty, resilience, and respect.

So far:

- Classes have undertaken the process of electing Junior School Council members; these will be announced soon, and families will be invited to the assembly where we present them
- House Captains have presented their speeches and votes are being tallied.
- We announced that this year we will implement School Captains into our Leadership program. Gr 6 students can apply by Monday 3:30pm.
- We have run many successful whole school assemblies during our new timeslot.
- The Grade 6s have been doing an amazing job supporting our new Prep students in the yard and in the classroom and buddy program.

Uniform and Hats

We have very simple uniform expectations which include wearing a school polo shirt and navy bottoms or navy/white checkered dress. You can purchase new uniforms from our uniform shop at the school office or alternatively come in and have a look at the second-hand uniform supplies that we have. All students must wear a hat in Term 1 and 4, we have several senior students who have graffitied their school hats or turned the brims up. I will be requesting that these students purchase a new hat to remain SunSmart.

Working Together – Positive Behaviour by All

Our school values are strongly embedded within our school culture, and we continue to build on these, to ensure we have a positive environment for learning. With the start of the school year it's a good opportunity to inform you of the Department of Education's policy that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all community members – students, staff, visitors, and parents.

Good relationships are based on:

- Open and honest communication
- Trust and respect
- Working together
- Fair and reasonable expectations by all.

Personal Property at School

Specimen Hill Primary School understands that students may sometimes like to bring items of personal property to school. DET does not have insurance for personal property of staff, students, and visitors. Specimen Hill does not take responsibility for items of personal property that are lost, stolen or damaged at school or during school activities. Damage to personal property brought to school is the responsibility of the owner of that property. We encourage students not to bring items where possible to school.

Specimen Hill Primary School is committed to the Child Safe Standards

Family Picnic

We are excited to invite our school families to bring their own chairs, blankets, and picnic dinner to a family picnic to be held **Tuesday February 27th February 5:00pm – 6:30pm** on 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.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours in the classroom safes. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year. The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social press. A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available [here](#).

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 have sent 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.

Absences

We use Sentral Student Management Program to track student absences. This program allows us to send an SMS message to parents who have a child/children absent from school without an explanation. The message notifies the parent that the child is absent and asks that they notify the school as to the reason why. Parents can either return an SMS with the absence reason, log the absence reason on the Sentral App or telephone the school on 5443 5353.

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.

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 operate from 6:30am-6:30pm – bookings are open.

Bookings will be made via the Sentral Parent App.

Wellbeing Program

We recognise the importance of educating our students not only academically but also socially and emotionally. Our Wellbeing Program this term includes students learning to recognise their emotions and being able to recognise when they may not be ready to learn. We are teaching this through introducing Ready to Learn scales. These enable our students to reflect on their emotional state and to consider how prepared they are to learn. Teachers assist students to identify a range of strategies they can use to help them feel better and transform their emotions and get in a place where they are ready to learn. This type of check-in is the first step to developing the skills of self-regulation. Senior students develop their own using images they can relate to, here is an example below:



SPECI STUDENT AWARDS

Term 1 Week 4– Awards presented at Friday Assembly 2:15pm

Empathy

Excellence

Honesty

Resilience

Respect

Grade	Student of the Week
Prep/One – Room 1	Raiden P
Prep – Room 2	Charlie D
Grade 1/2 - Room 3	Isabelle B
Grade 1/2 - Room 4	Ella C
Grade 1/2 - Room 5	Georgie Y
Grade 1/2 - Room 6	Ruby H
Grade 3/4 – Room 7	Ashlyn W
Grade 3/4 - Room 8	Xavier P-Y
Grade 5/6 - Room 9	Archie T
Grade 5/6 - Room 10	Mason M
Grade 5/6 - Room 11	Buddy D
Grade 5/6 - Room 12	
Grade 5/6 - Room 13	Kaide H
Physical Education	Nate T
Art	Ben W
Music	Katie M - Room 3
ICT	Oscar S
Chinese	Damon Mc - Room 8
Circus	Aiden W - Room 11
Principal's Award	Scarlette T - Room 10

PE News

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

TERM 1 DATES

2024



FEBRUARY

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	12pm-1:15pm	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!



States Schools' Relief Uniform Package 2024

Eligible families

Applicants who hold a current health care card.

Who is SSR?

States Schools' Relief is a not-for-profit organisation that works closely with all government schools across the state of Victoria. Each year State Schools' Relief provides assistance to families experiencing financial disadvantage with school uniforms and footwear.

SSR provides a uniform package each year to all families/carers eligible for CSEF funding.

2024 FAMILIES Uniform Package for CSEF recipients

2024 families that are recipients of the camps, sports, excursions fund (CSEF) automatically qualify for the uniform package and/or voucher.

Please contact the office for more information and order forms

Newsletter



Hello Families and Friends,

This week we have had so much fun exploring some of our new games and getting creative through some fun messy play and art experiences!

Take a look at some of the fun and exciting things we've been up to:



Activities coming up

There's always something exciting happening at OSHC and next week includes:

- **Paper plane races**
- **Messy clay play**
- **Bracelet making**
- **Shadow art**

And so much more!

With the warmer weather, we need to come prepared!

Since the weather has been warm and the children love being outside to play group games, kick the footy and have a shot at scoring on the basketball court it's important to have your **hats** and **sunscreen** so you can join the fun!

It's free to register

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at pp.campastralia.com.au or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



Visit our blog

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families.

[Visit our blog](#)

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)

