**Welcome to Grade 5/6!**

Welcome back to the beginning of our new school year. This is just a short introduction to the Grade 5/6 team and our communication procedures for this year.

**Newsletters**

Class newsletters will go home on uneven weeks and after this week, will only be posted on Tiqbiz and the school website (Year level News - Grade 56 [http://www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au/year-level-news/year-5-6/] )

School Newsletters will be posted to Tiqbiz and the website on even weeks.

**Grade 5/6 Team**

The Grade 5/6 teaching team is looking forward to a fantastic year of learning. We encourage you to email us if you have any concerns. Email is a great way to touch base and to arrange an appointment to see us if needed. In an emergency or unforeseen circumstance please call the school directly on 9756 7463.

**Get to Know You Interviews**

Get to Know You Interviews will be held in the week beginning 15th February, 2016. More information in next week’s school newsletter. Put the dates in your diary!

**IMPORTANT DATES – TERM 1**

- **Open School Evening** Get to know other Patch families. Wander around our wonderful school. Meet our teachers! Friday 29th January 5.00 - 6.30 pm.
- **Get to Know You Interviews** Week beginning February 15th.
- **Boys for Beginners Workshops (for parents)** February 15th and March 21st or February 22nd and March 28th; 7-9pm
- **Labour Day** Monday 14th March
- **The Patch Autumn Festival** Saturday, 19th March
- **Last Day Term 1** Thursday, 24th March
- **Earthkeepers Camp (Grade 5 only)** Gr 1 - 13th, 14th, 15th April
  Gr 2 - 18th, 19th, 20th April
- **Sovereign Hill Camp (Grade 6 only)** Tues - Thurs, 16th-18th August
- **School Banking** Every Wednesday
This section of our newsletter will become the responsibility of our student reporters, who will inform you of aspects of their learning each fortnight.

During the first few weeks in our classrooms we will be establishing our learning environment. Students have been given the opportunity to apply for school leadership roles. Students could apply for all positions they are interested in, using separate persuasive letters to the attention of “Deb Herrmann and Michelle Rayner” for each. There is still an opportunity for students to apply for monitor positions, particularly in the areas of Music, Japanese, Science and Fire Safety. Final applications must be handed in to Deb and Michelle by 11.30 am Monday 1st February.

We are building the foundations for effective learning in reading comprehension workshops, writer’s workshops and problem based mathematics investigations. As teachers, we are extremely excited about our year ahead, working in partnership with you, our student’s parents, in creating independent, lifelong learners.

**Homework Expectations**
- **Reading** for 20-30 minutes every day. Record your reading in your diary.
- **Reading Letters**: One per month. Each student will have a special day to hand this in. The reading letter timetables for each grade will be posted on the school website.
- **Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation**: Weekly activity to be completed by Friday.

**Tuesday Rotations**
Tuesday is a day of rotations through 5 specialist teachers for all students in grades 4-6. Rotation timetables will be available on the school website.

The specialist areas and teachers involved in the Tuesday rotation are as follows:
- Music - Leanne Barton
- Physical Education - Emilya Toney
- Sustainability - Judy Peterson
- Philosophy - Pauleen Gould
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) - Kent Agis

**Specialists**
Specialist classes are on Wednesday 9am -12.30pm. A timetable will be posted on the school website.
- Japanese - Jane Capon
- Environmental Studies - Michelle Rayner
- Art - Sophia Walsh

**Diaries and Grade Six Jumpers**
Diaries and Grade Six Jumpers for this year have not yet been delivered to the school. We apologise for any difficulty this causes. We will keep you informed as soon as we get more information.

**Swimming Sports**
Interschool swimming events will be held sometime early this term. Students who train or have trained in a swimming squad or similar will be invited to attend. Usually parents attend and provide transport for their children. We are yet to be notified of dates/times.
Leadership Day Highlights  
Friday 29th January

**Spaghetti Bridges**
On 5/6 leadership day we had to make spaghetti bridges. They had to be 1 metre long and also had to hold a flat MAB block on top of it. We also got 3 rubber bands and 20cm of sticky-tape. It was really fun. We had a group to do it with. We learnt how to be a leader and we also learnt teamwork.  
*By Max 5/6/C*

**Fantasy Island**
In the 5/6 leadership day Fantasy Island was fun and interesting. We played a game like musical chairs except we had to fit everyone on six separate pieces of paper. The point of Fantasy Island was to find the differences between the groups of people who hung out together because they like the same things. I learnt that people act completely differently when around different people.  
*By Charlie 5/6C*

**House of Cards**
On 5/6 leadership day we did an activity called house of cards. What we were working on was showing resilience by making a house of cards. Kent kept knocking over everyone’s cards and making it hard to build it high but we all kept trying and bouncing back. He was trying to teach us good resilience and I think he did.  
*By Cameron 5/6B*

The students have had a wonderful day with Grade 56 teachers - Kent, Andrew, Jennie, Yale, Trish, Courtney - exploring what “Leadership” means to them. They practiced integrity, responsibility, respect and resilience through three workshops. They have spent time with our school leaders, Deb and Michelle, and reflected on their experiences.