Dates to Remember

June
Mon 2\textsuperscript{nd} Book Club Orders Due Back
Mon 9\textsuperscript{th} Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Mon 16\textsuperscript{th} School Council Meeting
Thurs 19\textsuperscript{th} Student Reports Sent Home
Mon 23\textsuperscript{rd} Parent / Teacher Interviews (Student-Free Day)
Fri 27\textsuperscript{th} Nursery Rhyme Dress Up Day for Preps
Fri 27\textsuperscript{th} End of Term 2 (Students dismissed at 2.30pm)

July
Mon 14\textsuperscript{th} Beginning of Term 3

Have you returned your \textbf{ticket stubs \& money} for the \textbf{Great Community Raffle}?

We only have \textbf{one week} left to collate all tickets \& money before returning both to Rotary.

\textbf{PLEASE RETURN STUBS, MONEY \& UNSOLD TICKETS TO THE OFFICE BY NEXT FRIDAY 20\textsuperscript{TH} JUNE}

Thank You for Your Support!

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Uniform Survey Results

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in our recent Uniform Survey. Your valuable responses are being collated and will be used to guide our decision-making regarding future changes to our school uniform policy. We will be able to share a summary of the results with the school community very soon.

Thank you also to Jane Ferguson for the enormous amount of work and expertise she has put in to this project. The outcome will, no doubt, provide us with some terrific information to work with.

Congratulations to Ashley in 5/6A who won the $50 Uniform Shop voucher for completing the survey
From the Principal...

**Thought for the week:**  
“Never cut what you can untie.”  
Joseph Joubert (1754-1824)

**Parent Survey:** The link to our Parent Survey was sent out on TIQBIZ today. This is a survey where we seek your opinion on your experience of many aspects of school life at The Patch. Your views will help us address areas of improvement and ensure we continue to strive towards the best education we can offer your child.

**OSHC** – An enormous thank you to Sheila for all her hard work during our recent Quality Assurance process. I am very excited to announce that the OSHC program was given an overall rating of ‘**Exceeding National Quality Standard**’! This is an outstanding result and we are extremely proud of Sheila and the whole OSHC team. What a valuable person we have coordinating this extraordinary program!

**Annual Report to Community** – A reminder that on Monday we will table our Annual Report to the Community, which can be found on the school website. We will meet before School Council at 7.00 pm and members of the school community are very welcome to attend. If you wish to come along please ring Jody and let her know of your attendance.

**Staff Leaving** - We are approaching the end of term very quickly and will be farewelling Nicole on Wednesday 25th June after the end of term concert from 9.30 – 11.30am. We will miss Nicole and her innovative and passionate approach to music. Haley will also be leaving us at the end of term to commence her new journey into motherhood. We will farewell Haley on 27th July at morning assembly. Congratulations and good luck Haley - we will all miss you.

**New Staff Member** - I am pleased to announce that from the beginning of term 3 we welcome Andrew Hanson as our newly appointed Numeracy Coach and Music teacher. We will also be seeing more of Hayden Chiswell who, with Marita’s return next term, will continue teaching with us, taking over Haley’s grade whilst she is on Family Leave. We have been fortunate to find very talented young teachers and we warmly welcome them to The Patch community.

**Uniform Survey** - Many thanks to Jane and her team in the Uniform Shop. The team has worked tirelessly to create a smooth system of service and we are grateful for their dedication and commitment. The Uniform Survey winner is Ashley in 5/6A, who has won a $50 Uniform Shop voucher! School Council will be discussing the results of the survey on Monday night and we will let you know the outcome.

Have a great week,

Deb

herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Notification of New Works

Kallista-Emerald Road, The Patch

As part of Council’s Footpath Construction Program for 2013/14, Yarra Ranges Council is upgrading the existing gravel path to a concrete footpath and constructing a pedestrian boardwalk along Kallista-Emerald Road, The Patch (from The Patch Primary School to Greenslopes Rd). These works are scheduled to commence Wednesday 4th of June 2014 and should be completed towards late June 2014 subject to favourable conditions.

Please be aware that while we will make every attempt to keep disruptions to a minimum, due to the nature and extent of the works there are likely to be some disruptions to access and traffic flow in this vicinity, during normal construction working hours from 7.30 am to 4.30 pm on weekdays. Emergency access for local residents will remain a priority however, there may be occasions throughout the day when traffic flow may be temporarily halted for up to 5 minutes.

As there will be workers and plant operating in close proximity to traffic, for the safety of all we request that you:

- Keep your speed under 40km/h;
- Be prepared to stop as you approach the works; and
- Follow directions given by works personnel and / or traffic controllers.

As a matter of added safety, children should be advised to keep away from the works throughout their duration.

Should you have any queries regarding these works, please contact Dennis Ward at Yarra Ranges Council on 9294 6316.

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Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Our school is participating in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (Data Collection). This Data Collection is taking place in government, Catholic and Independent schools across Australia, and will provide valuable information about supports required for a broad group of students. This will enable Australian and State governments to better target support and resources in schools. This in turn will help schools give students with disability the support they need.

The Data Collection is not limited to students with diagnosed disabilities. It uses a very broad definition of disability, taken from the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, which describe a broad range of health and learning conditions for which schools are required to provide ‘reasonable adjustments’ to support students to participate on the same basis as other students.

The Data Collection will take place during Terms 2 and 3. No personal or identifying information about any student will be included, however, if you decide you do not wish information about your child to be included in the Data Collection, you can opt-out by signing and returning the opt-out consent form which was sent home recently. More information about the Data Collection is available on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/needs/Pages/nccd.aspx or you could contact the Principal if you have any further questions.
‘Sustainable Me’ Competition

During Science Week recently, we launched the Sustainable Me competition, asking children to email images of themselves and/or their families engaging in sustainable activities at home and elsewhere. The competition gave students the opportunity to ‘show off’ how sustainable they are, as well as reflect on the everyday decisions we make. The image had to demonstrate how the daily practice is sustainable; for example, bringing a refillable drink bottle to school every day, or walking/riding to school instead of driving.

Some excellent and creative images were submitted and are on display on the Science Noticeboard near the staff room; please come a take a look.

The competition was sponsored by Earth Education who supplied some prizes for our best entries.

Runner up students were Jake in 4/5A and Raven in 1B.

Winners were Jarrah in 1B, Declan in 5/6A and Sarah in 3/4B.

Well done everyone! 😊

Megan and Tania
OSHC Curriculum Day Program
Parent – Teacher Interviews
Monday 23rd June 2014
**Last Chance to Express Interest**

If you would like your child to attend a Curriculum Day Program run by our popular OSHC team on Parent – Teacher Interview Day, please advise the school no later than this Monday 16th June 2014.

We have extended the deadline for a few days to give families the chance to respond if they need care for their children on that day.

Unfortunately, if we do not receive enough interest, the day’s planned program will be cancelled.

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LOST
From EarthKeepers Camp
One blue Goretex jacket (raincoat) belonging to Indigo Sangster. The jacket is named, new and sorely missed.

Please see Alesha in the Prep rooms or Indigo in 4/5A if you have any information regarding its whereabouts.

Thank you 😊

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EBM Insurance Brokers – Insurance for Students
StudentCover accident insurance was developed to give parents & guardians a helping hand when they need it the most, at a very affordable price.

The annual cost of a StudentCover policy is just $29.00.

The cover provides protection for your children 24 hours a day, seven days a week, anywhere in the world* whether they are at school at the time of the accident or not and includes almost every sport*.

(*some conditions apply)

For further information click here or collect a flyer from the school office.
Chisholm Institute of TAFE visits The Patch

On Tuesday, June 10, 30 Early Childhood Development students from Chisholm Institute of TAFE visited our school to explore our nature-based education program and examine the process that allowed our students to act as designers, builders and managers of our school Learning Landscape and broader school grounds.

Year 5 students from 5/6B were invited to act as tour guides and to practice their leadership skills as they visited the many areas of our outdoor landscape and Eco-Centre. Feedback from our visitors indicated our students were very well mannered, connected and proud of their landscape and excited to be able to share it with others – particularly where there was little understanding of the benefits of real life learning and sustainable living.

Well done Ellen, Sadie, Breanna, Angus, Mitchell, Raphael, Jesse, Caellan, Sophie and Nyssa; you demonstrated all the characteristics of the next generation of leaders.

Here are some images of our students at work and during assembly as we acknowledged their contribution to our Outreach Program.
Today at Assembly, we acknowledged two outstanding groups of monitors who have demonstrated great commitment to their responsibilities and a high degree of initiative. Our Eco-Centre Animal Monitors (see image below) are Annalise, Zali, James, Ethan and Sam, and their role is to feed and care for our various lizards, turtles, frogs and axolotyl. What began as a weekly and occasional role has become an almost daily task and they have approached the responsibility with enthusiasm, dedication and intelligence. Thank you so much for all you help, you certainly make my life easier!

![Image](image1.png)

Our Recycling Monitors are also to be commended. These students have single handedly revolutionized our waste management process and we now enjoy a more sustainable and rigorous process. Braden, Bradley, Sophie, Kayla, Ada and Jack have demonstrated great leadership skills and initiative as they collect, oversee, sort and promote good waste practices every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. We no longer contaminate our recycling collections, have a reliable supply of paper and cardboard for recycling and have reduced the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

Well done monitors, you are setting a fine example for us all!

Michelle Rayner
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent's bank account;
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.

VICTORIA AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY
The Patch School Parent Survey 2014

Parent representatives of The Patch School Council are currently undertaking a survey of parents and guardians of children at the school. The survey will build on feedback received via a ‘Parent Opinion Survey’ that was conducted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) earlier this year as part of a standard, statewide survey process. The DEECD choose a random sample of 40 parents from our school community to be sent their survey, and only a portion of this sample replied. We are hoping to receive a much broader range of responses, in order to better represent parent opinion at The Patch. We are also hoping that by undertaking our own survey we will get a better understanding of parents’ views about the school – what you are happy with, what concerns you, and improvements that you believe could be made to different aspects of the school.

As parents, we all have a stake in ensuring that our children get the best possible education, in the best possible learning environment and that we are fully aware of the ways in which programs at the school are implemented to achieve those ends. This is a chance for you to be heard, and to impact on future directions of The Patch School. For this reason, we encourage all families to complete the survey by following the link below.

All survey responses will be treated anonymously.

Simply click here to be re-directed to the SurveyMonkey website to complete our survey.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, copies can be obtained at the school office.

If you would like to learn more about the survey you can contact either

Lynda Krause (0417 854 568) or

Matt Clear (0403 229 094).

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

If you are the holder of a current Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Veterans Affairs Gold Card and your child is enrolled in a Government school as at 14\textsuperscript{th} July 2014, you may be eligible for the second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Application & distribution forms are available on our website and note that if you have already applied for EMA at the beginning of the year, you do not have to re-apply for the second instalment.

Applications for the second instalment must be received by the school no later than Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} August 2014.
Coughs, Colds and Asthma

Coughs, colds and the flu are one of the most common triggers of asthma. The common cold is caused by an upper respiratory tract infection and is a common illness for children and adults in Australia. As we approach the colder months, here are some tips to keep in mind to prevent and reduce the spread of coughs, colds and the flu:

- Avoid coughing and sneezing on or near others and wash your hands thoroughly to prevent the spread of disease.
- If your child is not feeling well, it is recommended that they stay home and rest, to reduce the spread of infections and to speed up their recovery process.
- Everyone should have the annual flu vaccination to ensure they are protected from this disease. You or your child may be eligible for the free flu vaccination. Details about who is eligible can be found here and can also be determined by your doctor.
- Prior to purchasing any medications or herbal and natural remedies, you should seek the advice of your doctor or pharmacist as some medications can react with asthma medications. Such as Aspirin, Ibuprofen/Naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications), Beta Blockers tablet and eye drops (used for high blood pressure and glaucoma), and ACE inhibitors (used to control blood pressure).

Stay warm this winter!

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

New Payment Options for OSHC

The Patch School is now offering all parents the opportunity to pay your OSHC fees regularly with a Credit Card or by Direct Debit using Child Care EasyPay.

This will allow you to set up an automated process to pay the outstanding balance on your OSHC statement and remove the frustration of having to arrange payment each fortnight.

Parents only need to fill in the Parent Set Up Form available from OSHC or at the document display at the school office, select their preferred method of payment, Credit Card or Direct Debit, return to the school and we will set up your automatic fortnightly payment.

For the parents who already use our in-house fortnightly payment plan, please fill in your details on the Parent Set Up Form, return it as soon as possible and we will arrange for your payment to continue to be debited on a fortnight basis on this new system.

Alternatively, this system also offers parents the choice of paying by direct deposit when they choose to. A separate form will be available soon to enable personal login details to be issued to use this service.

The benefits to you as a parent include:
- No need to carry cash or cheque
- Once set up, there is no need to remember to pay your OSHC account each fortnight
- Ability to earn additional points and rewards on your credit card
- The cash flow benefits of interest free days (most cards offer between 40 - 55 days interest free period)

We have also been able to negotiate a lower transaction fee for these payments:

Parents pays (incl GST)
- Mastercard & Visa: 1.2%
- American Express: 2.2%
- Bank Account: .90c

We feel that moving forward with these payment options is in the best interests of both you and the school.

Please come to us with any questions or concerns you have about this new payment option.
Congratulations to all students who received certificates at today’s school assembly. Keep up the great work!
Celebrating Refugee Week at The Patch

Refugee Week has been celebrated in Australia since 1986. The ultimate aim of this week is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia.

It is an opportunity to educate ourselves about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia. It is an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful contributions refugees make to our community. It is an opportunity to teach our children about empathy and respect and our common human bond.

Refugee Week this year will run from June 15th to June

During Refugee Week there will be a collection point in the school foyer where we will collect non-perishable food items to donate to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. The ASRC provide a food bank, legal advocacy, and medical support among other fantastic programs for Asylum Seekers in the community. It is our aim to collect a donation from each Patch PS family during this week, which will then be delivered to the ASRC in Footscray. Some ideas of things to donate are:

- breakfast cereal
- dried fruit, nuts & seeds
- long life (UHT) milk
- biscuits/chocolate
- tomato paste
- tinned sardines and salmon
- tinned tomato, corn and peas
- tinned beans and lentils (without sauce)
- green tea, black tea & instant coffee
- spices
- honey (in small jars)
- dishwashing detergent
- shaving items
- sanitary pads
- shampoo
- soap
- toothbrushes
- washing powder

AMBER is a group of mothers who care about the future society their children will inherit. We see some of the most pressing moral issues in Australia currently as the fear that exists in the community toward the ‘other’. No where is this more stark than in relation to asylum seekers and refugees. Drawing on our rich heritage of Mothers’ movements of the past, we as Mothers, driven by our solidarity with other Mothers across the world and our knowledge and experience in the area of asylum seekers/refugees, are looking to open the eyes and hearts of our fellow Australians to the inspiring possibilities that lie ahead for our Australian community.

A local AMBER group has recently been established and is working passionately to support asylum seekers both in detention and in our community. Stay tuned for more ways that you can be involved....
Community Notices

Catalyst Kinect Open Day: Home of the Child & Adolescent Wellness Project
Unfortunately, the planned Open Day on SATURDAY 31ST MAY, 11AM-3PM has been postponed until further notice. We will advise the community as soon as a new date has been arranged and look forward to seeing you then. Enquiries can be directed to Luella by phone or email - 0447 876 060 or luella@catalystkinect.net

Take Home A Big Brother Or Big Sister
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Finland, Norway and Denmark will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

In Schools Music
Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba, Drums, Percussion, and Bass Guitar. New students. Enrolments to Andrew McAllister on 0408467147 or email lsmusic@bigpond.com

Music Tuition with Chris Walker
Lessons in piano, guitar and bass guitar during school hours and after. Phone 0407 049 012 or email chrisw7@ymail.com

Come and join The Voice Maker School of Singing!
Students are now having Singing Lessons at School in school time by a Professional Vocal Coach! For all children that love singing and want to develop confidence within themselves the fun way! They will also perform in live shows! ONE FREE LESSON available on request so why not give it a try? Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email jennieanastass@gmail.com

Spanish For all Ages ¡Hola Amigos!
After School Spanish classes at The Patch P.S. will run on Wednesdays for Grade 1 to 6 children from 3:45 - 4:30pm and Mondays for our Semi-Private group from 4-5pm STARTING..... WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12th in the Uniform Room!!! Come and learn the Language through songs, storytelling, music and dance. For more information please contact Pilar Nesvara directly on 0435358802 or Pilar7@live.com.au LUNITA BLUE Creative Spaces ABN 80898480 ¡HASTA PRONTO!

Private Ukulele Lessons
The Patch School students now have the opportunity to take private ukulele lessons, starting next term on Mondays, from week 2 onwards. New Mum to the school, Jess Dunn, has had 5 years’ experience teaching ukulele to kids and adults and is looking forward to teaching at The Patch. The cost is $14 for a 20 minute individual lesson or $10 for a paired lesson (subject to suitable pairing). For more information, please call or email 0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com.au

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