Thought for the week: *Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.*  

– Theodore Roosevelt.

We have three weeks until the term finishes!!!

Year 5 & 6 Camp is fast approaching and the students and staff are looking forward to Urban Camp in the second week of Term 2. You will also have received notification of our new dance program commencing in the first week of Term 2 called ‘Stomp the Beat’. Earthkeepers Camp, 2020 Vision, the theatre, Responsible Pet Ownership, Year 3 & 4 Camp, reports and Interview Day are just a few of the activities coming up.

Please take the time to read about Niamh from Year 3 who has decided to shave her hair at Assembly on Monday the 18th of March. She is attempting to raise $1000.00 for the Leukaemia Foundation and the article includes the website link if you wish to make a donation. Niamh has also been visiting grades to raise awareness of her cause.

On Tuesday March 19th The Patch Primary School, will celebrate Close The Gap Day. Students will work with Wurundjeri elder, Murrindindi, in our school Wetlands and complete follow up activities of Math and Literacy in their classroom. The day always is a wonderful way to acknowledge awareness of the ‘health inequality’ of Indigenous people. We are asking for a gold coin donation on the day, to enable us to purchase timber for the signage we need in our Wetlands and school buildings.

All children are able to wear free dress on the day, incorporating a colour of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags – red, yellow, black, white or green. We all look forward to a great day. Our mural donated to us by Murrindindi will also be on display in the Library with an explanation of its origin, the artist and the story behind this wonderful art work.

Coming up is our first visit from Monbulk Secondary College who are bringing their Japanese exchange students to visit. They will perform at Assembly on Monday the 25th and work in the Japanese room with Jane, our Japanese teacher.
Preps will attend every day starting next week, after the long weekend; we are sure to have some tired little ones by Friday. Their buddies have been assisting in a smooth transition into the yard. As parents we are often concerned for our children when they are not coping with school so please contact your child’s teacher if this is a worry for you and, as always, if you need to talk with me, please let me know. On this note, if anything is worrying you please contact us for an appointment so we can allocate time to talk with you rather than rushing off to class or to a meeting.

Over the last few weeks we have been assessing our Year 1 & 2 students online in their Literacy and Numeracy skills. Teachers from Year 2 -6 will be working through the SWIST (Single Word Spelling Test) over the next few weeks. This is a whole school spelling assessment that is used to help us analyse where student’s strengths lie and where they are in need of improvement to move them forward.

Usually we would have had an Information Night by now and would also have had a meeting with you after school hours, but due to the AEU industrial bans this has not occurred. However it is important that we keep you informed as to what is happening in each year level, so we have prepared a General Information book which has information for across the whole school and also individual year level booklets. Teachers have requested parents’ email addresses so that these could be emailed directly out to you and we have also provided these books on our new website. Year Level booklets are available online now and the updated General Information booklet will be ready early next week.

Please remember that if you are picking up your children early to sign them out and deliver the note to the class teacher. We understand that at times you are rushed but for the safety of our students this is a necessary process and an important part of our duty of care to our students.

Our long bell in the morning is working well and students and teachers are ready to work by 9.00 am.

I wish you a great long weekend,

Deb

herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

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National Close the Gap Day 2013
Campaigning for Indigenous health equality – Working for Change

On Tuesday March 19th The Patch Primary School, will celebrate Close The Gap day. Students will work with Wurundjeri elder, Murrindindi, in our school Wetlands completing follow up activities of Math and Literacy in their classroom. The day always is a wonderful way to acknowledge awareness of the ‘health inequality’ of Indigenous people. We are asking for a gold coin donation on the day, to enable us to purchase timber for the signage we need in our Wetlands and our school buildings. All children are able to wear free dress on the day, incorporating a colour of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags – red, yellow, black, white or green. We all look forward to a great day. Gudjina, Gudjina.( All good, great, happy)

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**UNIFORM SHOP CHANGE OF DAY**
Please note that the Uniform Shop is now open on

**WEDNESDAYS at 2.30pm – 3pm**
New school procedures for the Bushfire Season

The way schools in Victoria respond to bushfires has been revised. New fire danger ratings and warnings have been introduced in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter and SMS with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed by the risk of fire. We will also cancel any offsite activities (such as school camps and excursions) and out-of-school care if the activities are at risk. There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On high fire risk days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared is to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire, we have completed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s self-assessment of our emergency preparedness. We have also updated our emergency management plan; reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and regularly clear our school grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

Make sure your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au, and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the Bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
Is your child a book worm and loves to read?"

We are starting a book club which is open to any Grade 3 or 4 students who are keen. We will meet once a month and the children will swap their favourite books and get an opportunity to talk about them if they wish, in an informal environment. This will be after school one evening say between 6pm -7.30pm, once a month.

Please contact sally@tractorgroup.com for more information or to join up. Only open to a maximum of ten children.

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World's Greatest Shave - A Letter from a Very Proud Dad

Hi Everyone,

Our beautiful Niamh has decided that she wants to participate in the World’s Greatest Shave, with the actually shave happening at assembly on Monday 18th March.

Today, 31 Australians will get the news they have blood cancer. Your donation in support of Niamh’s efforts will help the Leukaemia Foundation support them from the moment they are diagnosed, free of charge.

The money you give through a tax deductible donation will also help to fund Australia’s best blood cancer research.

Please sponsor Niamh now by clicking the link below. Thank you for your support!

http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/niamh

Take care,

Matt Clear

P.S. We have re-confirmed a few times that she’s happy to shave her head and she’s still keen!

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Congratulations to Past Students

Alex Litovkin is a past student of The Patch School and completed his VCE at Monbulk College last year. Alex was ranked in the top 10% in the state and was the College’s dux for 2012 with an ATAR score of 99.25 – an outstanding achievement. He has been offered a place to study Commerce at The University of Melbourne. Another past student, Lauren Salter, was also ranked in the top 10% and has been offered a place to study nursing at Monash University.

We would like to acknowledge how proud we are of Alex and Lauren and of the hard work and enormous effort they have made to achieve these results.

The world is full of wonderful opportunities and it is terrific to see our students do so well and, as a result, be offered choices enabling them to achieve the career and life they are looking for.

Congratulations Alex and Lauren!
On Wednesday 20th February we had a Prep Picnic to welcome new families to The Patch School. It was a lovely evening on the oval and the children had a wonderful time exploring the playground and playing while their parents got to know each other. Thanks to Linda Loveridge for organising it!
Try before you buy.
Give your kids the opportunity to try new sports and activities after school at The Patch OSHC. You have NO added expense and you don’t have to do a thing.

**NEW PROGRAMS - February-March**
- **Dance** – Thursdays for 4 weeks from the 21st February
- **Triathlon/Scooters** - Mondays for 4 weeks from the 25th February
- **Netball** - Wednesdays for 3 weeks from the 13th March
- **Fencing** – 2 Weeks already completed!
- **Awesome activities & Fun** – Every day of the week

What’s stopping you?
- Casual spots are usually available. Go shopping; you don’t need to drag the kids along. 😊
- Your kids have the advantage of socialising with other kids of varied ages. They make strong friendships which benefits them in the playground at school and at home.
- To make a booking for OSHC during program hours or for more information phone Sheila on 9752 0164 or 0419 515 494. If there is no answer keep trying, they are probably outside playing with the kids.

ALL CHILDREN WELCOME
Scholastic Book Club

Orders Due Back
TUESDAY 12TH MARCH
(straight after the long weekend)
NO CASH ACCEPTED

Thanks for your support!

Behaviour Management

The ‘Step Up for Success’ program for behavior management has been established within the school with terrific results. We hoped to have more details about this program for you this week but this information will now be published in our next newsletter. Stay tuned!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This week we held another successful re-location drill and students made their way quickly and calmly to the Hall. They are to be commended on their excellent behaviour and participation. This practice is an important part of our Emergency Management Plan (EMP) which is designed to help us prepare for a variety of emergency situations. Living in an area of high fire risk increases the significance of being as prepared as possible for this unlikely event.

At The Patch we are fortunate to have staff members who are experienced in emergency management & response and ensure all aspects of emergency management are considered.

If you have any questions regarding our EMP, please feel free to contact the school at any time.

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

FAMILY TICKET OFFER!!

**SAVE UP TO $115.00**

TO BOOK TICKETS VISIT

www.smarttix.com.au

OFFER IS VALID FOR ALL REMAINING WED 7PM, THU 7PM & FRI 8PM PERFORMANCES
Monbulk College Celebrates 16th March 2013

College open 10.30am - 3.30pm
Meet up with old friends & colleagues
Memorabilia & photos on display
School tours conducted all day

Dinner Event - 6.30pm College Gym
PRIOR BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Don’t Miss out!! Order before 1/3/13

Official Ceremony @ 1pm - Book launch, Speeches, & our Anniversary cake will be cut by our very 1st Principal!!

ON SALE NOW!!
Commemorative Book, Wine, & Pavers

Professional Photographer Available 12.00 - 3.30pm for taking group photos

For details visit the college website:
www.monbulkcol.vic.edu.au
Community Notices

Participants Needed: FREE study for overweight teens looking for help!
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at The Royal Children’s Hospital is doing a study to find a better way to support overweight young people aged 12 to 17 years to make healthier choices about weight management. Participation involves completing online questionnaires and having height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference measured at the beginning and then at 3, 6 and 12 month follow-ups. Parents are also invited to take part. Every 3 months there will be a draw for a $100 gift voucher for those who have kept their appointments. The results will help us to find out a helpful way to teach young people about weight-related behaviours during adolescence. We need overweight young people aged 12-17 living in metropolitan Melbourne to join in!
Enquiries: Karly Cini 03 9345 6954 or stayingfit@mcri.edu.au
For more info: www.rch.org.au/cah/research/The_Staying_Fit_Project/

Intimo Lingerie – Book Your Own Intimo Styling Session
Everyday bras, Sports bras to support bras, fashion must-haves to fashion main-stays in Sizes 30A to 46G, 6 to 24, the Intimo Collection offers beautiful lingerie, for every size, shape and lifestyle. Preview the latest Intimo Collections at www.intimo.comm.au RECEIVE FABULOUS INTIMO REWARDS WHEN YOU HOLD YOUR OWN STYLING SESSION
BOOK TODAY – TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT SUE FLYNN M. 0419 324 070 E. sue.flynn@intimo.com.au
F. www.facebook.com/sue.flynn.399
(I am a Mum at the Patch School and work in the Uniform Shop Wednesdays at 2.30 pm – why not pop in for a chat).

Qualified Massage Therapist
Therapeutic & Relaxation, Local to The Patch, mobile service available $60 per hour or $50 concession
Ph: Kelly 0437 505 494

The Cottage Child Care Centre
208 Main Road Monbulk has vacancies available for Childcare -5 years of age. Highly qualified & caring staff. All first aid, asthma & anaphylaxis trained. Fantastic indoor/outdoor facilities. Nutritional meals daily, CCB & CCR rebates, open from 7-6 daily. Call Karen or John on 9752 1442

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

Music Tuition with Chris Walker Lessons in piano, guitar and bass guitar during school hours and after. Phone 9756 7515, 0407 049 012 or email chrisjw@netspace.net.au.

Singing Lessons at The Patch School with The Voice Maker
* singing lessons in school time at The Patch School
* develop an amazing voice by a professional vocal coach
* perform in concerts
* semi-private class $15-2 students half hour
* Private class $25 half hour
Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email: JOEY24@OPTUSNET.COM.AU

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! Semi private lessons $15-2 students half hour.
**Private lessons $30 for half hour. Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email joey24@optusnet.com.au

Spanish For all Ages
A playful and creative introduction to a second Language this program offers lots of opportunities for developing an interest in Spanish and its Culture. Preps to Grade 6’s are welcome, small groups only.
Mondays from 4:15 to 5pm in the Uniform Room. Forms at the office or contact Pilar on 0427881572 HASTA LUEGO!
Community Notices cont.

**Belgrave Junior Football Club** wants under 10 and 12 players for SEASON 2013 and...
Other age groups are more than welcome as well boys and girls of all other ages are also very welcome....
So get off the XBox, ps3, Wii, iPod or DS and join the real life heroes at BJFC!
(No remote, Wi-Fi or chrome-plated-fan-cooled controller required) Call Michelle Booth – President - on 0477 807627 or email belgravejfc@yahoo.com.au for registration date details.
Belgrave Junior Football Club enjoys a strict anti-bullying policy & a fully inclusive, family friendly environment

**Emerald Veterans Football & Netball Club**
Are you 35 or over? Would you like to get fit? And meet new people? 
Come and play Veterans Football or just train to keep fit with the Emerald Football-Netball Club Vets.
There is an Info night at the Emerald RSL on Thursday 14\textsuperscript{th} March commencing 7pm so come along and hear what Vets footy is all about.For any further info please contact: Geoff McKimmie 0404 061250 or Michael Sterne 0409 486123

**The CourtYard Sassafras**
The CourtYard is now open! Please come in and browse through our six rooms of beautiful handcrafted furniture.
We also stock a fab range of eclectic gifts and homewares sourced from Australia and abroad.
263 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Ferny Creek Tel: 9755 2630 Parking available
Open six days 10.30am to 5pm (Closed Tuesday) FACEBOOK: thecourtyardsassafras

**Dining Table FOR SALE**
1.5m\textsuperscript{2} Wooden and glass topped dining table with 8 chairs to match. $400 ono. Please call Tammie on 0411 411 065.