Dates to Remember

April
Fri 4th Last Day of Term One
Tue 22nd First Day of Term 2
Mon 28th - EarthKeepers Camp 1
Wed 30th EarthKeepers Camp 2
Wed 30th - Fri 2nd May

May
Thur 15th Book Fair
Thur 22nd Stomp the Beat Disco
Tues 27th Prep Community Excursion
Fri 29th Prep Responsible Pet Ownership

June
Mon 23rd Parent / Teacher Interviews

Congratulations to
Merwool (Yellow) House
for gaining first place in today’s Junior Athletics Day!

Thank you to our enthusiastic students, hard-working staff and fantastic parents & grandparents for making this such a successful event! Final scores are as follows:

- Merwool (Yellow) House: 382 points
- Jelwick (Red) House: 360 points
- Yetta (Green) House: 354 points
- Namin (Blue) House: 349 points

Another Holiday, Another Thank You

Once again, a big thank you to all the families who have volunteered to help care for our animals over the coming holidays. Abby Morrison has created yet another roster full of generous families who are happy to give up some time to ensure our animals are well cared for and our new vegetable seedlings are watered (if necessary).

Thank you to all involved – YOU ARE AMAZING!

Michelle Rayner
Environmental Educator
From the Principal...

Thought for the week is: “Suppose you have tried and failed again and again; you may have a fresh start any moment you choose.” — Mary Pickford

Where has 10 weeks gone!!! Thank you everyone for your support with our Working Bee, Science Information Night & Morning, today’s Prep-2 Athletics Day, Grade Information Nights and our social picnics. It has been a term packed with events and we are very proud of our students, in particular our Orchestra, that played this morning with such exceptional talent. Have a wonderful break and happy Easter enjoy your time with your children.

We have had some concerns raised about the children who catch a bus home from school. I have spoken with Natalie at The Patch Store and she is happy for the children to wait in front of the shop to catch the bus, provided they behave appropriately. Hopefully this will assist with the limited space at the top bus shelter and also keep our neighbour’s garden intact. Natalie is happy for those parents whose children catch the bus to contact her at the store on 9756 6130 if they wish to.

Next term we will have a roll of children who walk home or catch the bus and we will check them off our list before they are dismissed.

As always we wear our school uniform with pride and I ask, as parents, for you to chat with your children about the importance of appropriate behaviour when wearing The Patch School uniform and the reflection this has on us within our community.

I also ask that we all respect the driveways and nature strips of neighbouring residents as we have again had several members of the community report their disappointment to us about parent driving and parking behaviour lately. The police have been monitoring this situation and will continue to do so. Please remember to be courteous and considerate of others when picking up your children from school.

On a happier note, next term we welcome Hayden Chiswell to the Prep area whilst Marita is on long service leave. Hayden will continue working at The Patch in terms 3 & 4 teaching Haley’s grade whilst she goes on maternity leave.

Again, have a wonderful break - I know I will with my granddaughter who, unbelievably, will be 6 months old!!

Deb

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

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

In Primary School, some students miss on average three weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of Year Six.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
• Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.
• Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer.

A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:
What a Wonderful World!

A working bee to remember

What a fantastic turnout we had on Sunday for our Garden Working Bee! Wherever you looked there were busy bodies hard at work and chatting happily with each other. Events such as these really do cement our school relationships and provide much more than improvements to our landscape; new parents make new friendships; knowledge, skills and expertise are shared as is food and good conversation; our children play in multi-age groups in areas generally inaccessible to them and our connections to land, people and school are strengthened and renewed.

Thank you so much to all our Sunday volunteers, especially garden team members who organised the event and supervised mini-projects.

With the glorious weather beaming down on us, we were able to achieve many tasks in preparation for next year’s Open Garden event on March 14-15.

These included:

- Installing the roof on our tool shed extension
- Preparing and staining all our outdoor Eco-Centre windows
- Preparing and painting our veranda posts and additional window
- Cleaning out and sorting our igloo in preparation for much propagation of plants to sell at next year’s Open Garden event
- Pruning our rosemary hedge and shaping into large spheres some plants in our Alphabet Garden
- Weeding and plant removal in our Alphabet Garden
- Digging a trench around our pizza oven for a lavender hedge
- Shaping our cumquat and olive trees
- Repairing our compost bay timber slats to fit more easily
- Painting our apple boxes
- Installing baths in our vegetable garden for aquaculture and herbs
- Renovating our Dry Garden and stockpiling succulents for our roof garden overhaul
- Weeding the 5/6 garden on the large bank
- Oiling all our outdoor furniture

And of course:

- Preparing and cooking a vast amount of pizza for our army of workers (counted over 90 attendees!).

Thanks once again; our next working bee is May 31, followed by August 10 and October 25. Mark them in your diary now 📆

Michelle Rayner
Environmental Educator
New Weather Monitors for The Patch!
Weather Monitors

Well it’s official! **We now have four Year 6 Weather Monitors** (recognized by their new badges) who have been trained to broadcast the weather each day and recommend the appropriate clothing for the following day.

**Why?**

Well as explained by our monitors at last week’s assembly, in 2013, The Patch Primary School used nearly half a million mega joules (MJ’s) of energy at a cost of over $23,000, producing 129 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. This energy use provides for lighting, air-conditioning, appliances and information technology.

Some of this energy could be reduced through simple practices in our school such as reducing our reliance on heaters and air-conditioners. If we dressed more appropriately and established some guidelines for when we use heaters and air-conditioners, we could save our school money and take better care of our environment.

Providing information for students and staff about the weather each day will enable students and staff to dress more appropriately and reduce the reliance on heating and cooling systems.

The Bureau of Meteorology gives regular information for Mt Dandenong which we can use to broadcast to our school community at the end of each day with a recommendation for either **1, 2, 3 or 4 layers of clothing** (see policy below).

Our **Weather Monitors for 2014** are Oscar Davidson-Tuck, Megan Elias, Olivia Flynn and Tahlen Fleischer. At 3pm each day, these students visit the BOM website, broadcast the forecast and recommend appropriate clothing. They are keen to expand their expertise and responsibility by including more information about energy, water and waste to enable our school to become more environmentally friendly and shall provide material for a special Sustainability link on our school website.

**Stay tuned, as it promises to be very interesting and relevant for all!**

The Patch Primary School Clothing “Layer Policy”:

**Above 25 degrees Celsius:**
One Layer: Tee Shirt and shorts, summer dress

**17 – 24 degrees Celsius:**
Two Layers: singlet and Tee Shirt, singlet long-sleeved top, shorts/skorts/trousers; dress with jacket/long sleeved top;

**10 – 16 degrees Celsius:**
Three Layers: singlet, long sleeved polo top with fleece/jacket and trousers/school pants; dress with tights/leggings;

**Below 10 degrees Celsius:**
Four Layers: singlet, long sleeved polo top with fleece/jacket and coat (waterproof) and trousers/school pants;
Our students visit Emerald Primary School and explore some weather monitoring practices. Students from Emerald provided an extensive and very interactive overview of their program and we were very fortunate to be able to learn from them.
Free Dental Care is not just for Health Care Card Holders.

On January 1st 2014, the government introduced the new **Child Dental Benefit Scheme**. It entitles all eligible children aged **2-17 years old** to general dental care up to the value of $1000 over 2 years. Families who receive **Family Tax Benefit Part A** or a relevant Australian Government payment will receive a letter outlining their eligibility. **Children and youth who attend public dental clinics will not incur out of pocket expenses with the Child Dental Benefit Schedule.**

**Our normal dental care** continues to operate for all 0-12 year old children and eligible 13-17 year old youth (must be a holder or dependant of a health care or pensioner concessioner card holder, in out-of-home care provided by Department of Human Services or in Custodial Care).

Following their treatment, your child will be placed on our **patient recall system** and receive a reminder letter when their next appointment is due.

Please do not hesitate to phone the reception staff at **Knox Social and Community Health** if you require any further information about our dental services.

Thank you for your assistance.

The Oral Health Team, Knox Social and Community Health
1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully, 3156, Phone: 9757 6200

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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.
Community Notices

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 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 joey24@optusnet.com.au

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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**Community Notices**

**Monbulk Girl Guides ‘Crop and Craft’ Fundraiser**
Sunday 4th May 9am – 6pm at Wellington Cottage, 2B Moores Road Monbulk. Entry $10
Come down to the cottage with your scrapbooking and craft projects and take some time out to complete them while helping to raise valuable funds for Monbulk Girl Guides. Morning and afternoon tea provided (BYO Lunch). There will be spot prizes, a raffle drawn on the day and lots of valuable advice. For the scrapbookers there will be a variety of tools to try.
For bookings and enquiries please call Rochelle on 0447 213 948

**Belgrave Carnival**
Good Friday, April 18th 10am – 3pm. All proceeds to the Good Friday Appeal.
Rides, Food, Entertainment & Easter Egg Hunt
[www.belgravecarnival.org](http://www.belgravecarnival.org)  Phone 9754 1122  Tickets available to purchase from Hugs for Kids, Belgrave

**OSHCare 4 Kids School Holiday Program**
OSHCare 4 Kids are holding a holiday program for the coming school holidays in our school Hall.

**Monbulk Netball Club**
Please contact Dean Hill 0447 352 538 or email mountpleasant@aapt.net.au

**Belgrave JFC Auskick 2014**
When: This year Auskick coaching clinics run from 530pm to 7.00pm on Friday nights – starting 28 March
Who: Girls & boys from 5 to 12 years welcome. Cost: For $72.73 (includes processing fee)

**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](http://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!

**2010 NISSAN Navara 4X4, 74,000kms, BIG TRIP READY**
This single owner white turbo diesel Navara, is ready for that BIG TRIP you have always wanted to go on. It’s NEVER been used for towing. $17,000 worth of extras including:
canopy and decked-out tube with sliding false floor, built in fridge, 55ltrs water on board, long range fuel tank, bull bar, rear bar, winch, front Diff lock, heavy duty 4x4 suspension, bellow airbags, 5 Cooper ST-Max tyres, air compressor on board, dual battery system, roof racks, annex, off market immobilizer and snorkel.
$29,900. Call Willem (The Patch) on 0418 872 400 to inspect and negotiate.

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