New Monitors

Students who are chosen as Monitors are required to submit an expression of interest to the Principal outlining the qualities they possess that suit the responsibility of a Monitor position. Those selected have been given the opportunity to develop their skills in leadership and responsibility.

Congratulations to you all!

Dates to Remember

July
- Wed 30th: Prep 2015 Open Morning
- August
- Mon 18th: School Council 7.15pm
- Tues 19th: Murrundindi visiting
- Fri 22nd: Daffodil Day Free Dress Day

September
- Thur 18th: Showcase
- Fri 19th: Last Day of Term 3

October
- Mon 6th: Term 4 begins
- Thur 16th: Grade 2 Sleep Over
- Fri 31st: Curriculum Day

November
- Tue 4th: Melbourne Cup Day
- Wed 5th: Prep – Gr 2 Swimming Program
- Thu 13th: Grade 3/4 Camp

December
- Thur 4th: Christmas Concert
- Tues 9th: Step-Up Day
- Wed 17th: Grade 6 Graduation
- Fri 19th: Last Day of Term 4

NEW Monitors

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Congratulations to you all!

Animal Monitors

Japanese Monitors

LAST CHANCE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS VIA THE SCHOOL COUNCIL SURVEY! SEE THE LINK IN THIS NEWSLETTER 😊
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: “View life as a continuous learning experience.” - Denis Waitley

Welcome back everyone; we have had a great start to Term 3. Congratulations to our finalists for the fine effort they put up in the 3 – 6 Athletics today. We wish them every success as they progress to the District Finals on Wednesday 6th August.

The Showcase is taking place on Thursday 18th September, at Discovery Church in Mount Evelyn. Information around ticketing and times will be coming home at the end of August, so circle the date and get the grandparents organised as we are in for a fun time and some great entertainment.

“Caring for our Community”- Now and then families can experience difficulties either financially, health wise or with general management of their busy day to day lives. We are fortunate at The Patch to have a caring community offering support when our friends are in need, whether they are children, parents or staff, both past and present. We would like to reconfirm that if you are experiencing any difficulties to please come and talk to us. Sometimes a listening ear can go a long way toward helping. We may not be able to resolve the issue but we are certainly here to help in any way we can.

Welcome to Andrew (Music and Numeracy Coach) and Hayden (Year 2) who have had a great start to Term 3. We are missing Cheryl who is still on sick leave with an injured foot and due to return to work on Monday August 11th – so long as the doctor clears her for work. For Cheryl’s Year 4 & 5 parents we will be holding interviews on Thursday 21st of August. If Cheryl is unable to return by this date Jess has kindly agreed to have a chat to those parents who would like an interview. More on this soon. We wish Cheryl a speedy recovery.

We are now beginning planning for 2015 however before we can even begin to think about grade structure we need to have enrolments for Prep 2015 finalised. If you have a child commencing Prep in 2015 please make sure you have enrolled as soon as possible.

We are also asking those families who will not be at The Patch next year to inform us by Friday August 29th. Enrolment fluctuations impact on our planning and this information will allow us to make informed decisions and important decisions for the benefit of all the school community.

Once all information is received, presented to the consultative committee and the staff for input, a decision will be made at the end of November on grade structure and specialists for 2015. We will then choose staff, allocate children to grades and inform the community in December. New Preps for 2015 will know their teachers and grades on Monday December 5th.

Staff will start working on class groups for 2015 in October in preparation for Step-Up Day on the 9th December. This involves looking at children’s needs - both academically and socially. Our aim is to have balanced class groups in terms of academic ability, behaviour and social needs.

If you have any pertinent information you wish to be considered in relation to this, please put it in writing and pass on to Deb Herrmann by the end of this Term Friday September 19th.

Please note: Requests for a specific teacher cannot be considered. We are looking at the ‘bigger picture’ of creating balanced, workable class groups.

Have a great week

Deb

herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
**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](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/needs/Pages/nccd.aspx) 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.

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**Safety at School and Dogs**

You may be aware of a recent dog attack on the grounds of a neighbouring school. With this in mind, it is imperative that if you choose to bring your dog to school, they remain on their lead at all times and are handled by an adult. At no time are children to be responsible for a dog on a lead within school grounds.

At The Patch, we are a dog friendly school and we provide education around responsible pet ownership.

Dogs are an important part of many families in our school community and, as such, I hope we can all work towards continuing to welcome your dogs at school.

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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](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/needs/Pages/nccd.aspx) or you could contact the Principal if you have any further questions.
Thank you, thank you, thank you once again to all our lovely volunteers who fed, watered and generally fussed over our animals over the holidays. Our rabbits, guinea pig, chickens, frogs, blue tongue lizards, bearded dragons, axolotl and turtles are deeply grateful for your continued support.

If you would like to add your name to our wonderful volunteer list, please see Michelle in the Eco-Centre. It is fun, easy and provides some private time with our furry and scaly critters.

If you would like to become more involved in our environmental program, why not join our Garden Team? We shall be meeting again this **Tuesday, July 29, at 7.30pm** in the staff room and would love to see some new faces. You don’t have to know anything about gardening, animals, environmental issues or anything much. Just come with a desire to get involved and meet other parents and who knows what magic will happen?

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**Amazing Artwork**

Grade 1 student have been busy creating sculptures during their Art class. **Kane** (left) and **Tarquin** (below) were the first to display their fabulous recycled cardboard creations in the school foyer, but there are plenty more to see. Why not drop in and take a look next time you are at school?

You might also like to take the opportunity to view the wide range of our students’ art work on display in the main building – it is amazing!
The Patch Primary School

Drop Off and Pick-Up Procedure

Safety is of the utmost importance at The Patch PS and our system for dropping off and picking up students has been developed and fine-tuned over many years to enable the most effective and protective method of moving children on and off the site.

Students are dismissed from class at 3.25 and those going home by car will walk straight to the drop-off area and stand with siblings if they have them, to await their parents/carers. The years 5/6 should be standing at the higher end of the concrete path unless they are with siblings and the junior grades at the lower end of the path; all students should be well clear of the painted yellow line that denotes the walking path to cars.

To ensure parents/carers do not need to do unnecessary “laps” of the school driveway, we aim to have all students at the drop-off by the 3.30 bell. Students need to be constantly watching out for their car and to move quickly and carefully to enable a steady flow of traffic into and out of the grounds.

All paths to and from the drop-off need to be clear for easy access and visibility. Our parent community is a very cohesive and friendly one and we value any opportunity that enables families to socialize and relax. Please continue to use this time to catch up with friends and arrange “plays” for your children but be aware that we need to maintain our access on paths and visibility to arriving cars. Dogs must be kept on leads held by an adult and only students whose parents are collecting them from the shelter shed are allowed to be in there (unless it is raining).

To encourage safe behaviour at drop-off, we shall be awarding certificates at assembly to students who are consistently responsible and punctual. Poor behaviour will result in students receiving a Red Card which informs their parent/carer of their behaviour and requires them to collect them from the office area instead.

As the winter months continue and the weather is unstable and often cold and wet, we need to ensure our pick-up system works effectively and that parents/carers are not having to drive around the loop multiple times. We shall be reminding students of our expectations at drop-off; please talk to your child about how best they can help you and stay safe.

Thank you for your co-operation

Working Bee? Who said Working Bee?

Our next working bee is scheduled for Sunday, August 10, from 10 am until 1pm. We would love to see you there as we need to do some serious preparation for our Open Garden next March – a major fundraiser for our school next year.

Come along for a free workshop on Pruning Your Fruit Trees with expert John Rayner or venture into our Fern Gully to clear some new areas or plant (did I say 400???) ferns. Some of our garden beds need a bit of a clean-up and rubbish removed, pizza needs to be made and eaten and don’t forget, this week was National Tree Week and we have about 200 indigenous seedlings that need to be planted on the bank above the Gr 1/2 learning space. Don’t be afraid by the large numbers of plants awaiting a new home, this will be an ongoing job with our students as well.

Come along for some community building, get to know some more other parents and learn something new! It’s exciting, it’s rewarding and it’s our school.

Cheers,
Michelle
Get ready for a BIG day of shopping!!

The Patch School
Staff Fundraising Shopping Tour

Saturday 6th September 2014
7.30am – 6.30pm

😊 Parents & Friends Very Welcome 😊

Just $55 for a full day of shopping, goodie bag, morning tea, a 2 course lunch and plenty of laughs along the way.

We hope to fill the bus so why not bring a friend along!

Full payment required by Thursday 21st August 2014.

All enquiries to Jody at The Patch School Office on 9756 7463.

We look forward to seeing you there!!
Senior Sports Day Today!

Today the students in Grades 3 to 6 dressed in their House colours and enjoyed their sports day, participating in events including sprints, javelin, long jump and shot put. Whilst everyone did their best and had an enjoyable day, some students qualified to participate in the next level of competition, the District Finals in August.

Great job everyone!
Commonwealth Games for ex-Student Renae Hallinan

Renae Hallinan is an ex-student of The Patch School and along with mum, Marg Hallinan, has a strong connection to our school. Today the Australian Netball Team of which Renae is a member, managed to win their match against Wales which is a triumph for their team and Australia! We send our best wishes to Renae as she brings her ‘A game’ to Glasgow in the quest for Commonwealth Gold!

Senior Sports Day Winners

It was a big day for students in Grades 3 – 6 participating in today’s Sports Day. Our congratulations to Blue House who came first in the points tally with 361 points, followed by Yellow House (305 points), Green House (211 points) and Red House (195 points). Special congratulations to Amy E 3/4A for achieving overall Champion Girl with 27 points and Noah V 3/4A & Lachlan D 5/6B for achieving overall Champion Boys with an equal point score of 23. Age Group Champs were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Champion Girl</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Year Old Girl</td>
<td>Amy E</td>
<td>27 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Year Old Boy</td>
<td>Noah V</td>
<td>23 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Year Old Girl</td>
<td>Lilian K</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Year Old Boy</td>
<td>Alex McD</td>
<td>19 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Year Old Girl</td>
<td>Cadhla S</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Year Old Boy</td>
<td>James M</td>
<td>18 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Year Old Girl (equal)</td>
<td>Erica S</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Year Old Girl (equal)</td>
<td>Megan E</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done everyone!
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; or
- 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.
**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).

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**A Chinese Study Tour is Headed Our Way**

Next week, twelve Chinese students shall spend two days in our Year 5/6 classes immersing themselves in an Australian primary school as part of a study tour. They will participate in a number of activities including a workshop on “Our Eco-Centre Wildlife” and “Life in our Wetlands”, run by Year 5/6 students and join in with some sporting events organised by our Year 5/6 teachers.

Pizza from our pizza oven will be made and enjoyed by all students and the cultural exchange should provide many opportunities to learn about the two countries. We are looking forward to the event and shall share some of the experiences in the next newsletter.

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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.
Student Achievements

Students at The Patch School work hard and do their best so it is terrific to acknowledge those children who do that little bit extra, show initiative and reach their goals. We are proud of you all – well done!
Congratulations to all students who received certificates at recent school assemblies. Keep up the great work!
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.

Please, please, please don’t park on the grass.

Grassy areas such as the oval and the centre of the ring road are not suitable for vehicles and can be easily damaged at this time of year when the ground is wet and soft. To keep our beautiful grounds in good condition and to avoid accidents & slipping, please park in the designated public parking areas or use the drop-off system.

Thanks for your understanding.
Free Dental Care is not just for Children of Health Care Card Holders.

Children and youth who attend public dental clinics will NOT incur out of pocket expenses with the Child Dental Benefit Schedule

NO FEES ~ YOU WILL BE BULK BILLED!

On January 1st 2014, the government introduced the new Child Dental Benefit Scheme. Families who receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or a relevant Australian Government payment will receive a letter outlining their eligibility.

It entitles all eligible children aged 2-17 years old to general dental care up to the value of $1000 over 2 years.

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 on 9757 6200 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
Remember your weekly school banking is collected on a **Wednesday**.

Every time you deposit you will receive a sticker for your certificate and with only 6 stickers per term you will receive a prize at the end of term.

Application forms and certificates are available at the school office.

By banking with Bendigo Bank you also support all the animals at the Monbulk Wildlife Shelter.

Have fun saving and don’t forget you can contact us at the Bank with any questions at all 😊

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Monbulk & District **Community Bank®** Branch
70 Main Street, Monbulk, VIC 3793
P 03 9752 1130
E monbulkmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
Community Notices

Winter Massage Special
Skeletons & Sunflowers, Body & Earth Inc, is offering all members and friends of The Patch P.S community **1 hour Therapeutic & Relaxation Massage for the special price of $45**, for the duration of the winter months.
Cert 4 in Massage Therapy Practice & Level 2 Reiki qualifications.
Location ; The Nurture Room @ 222 Emerald-Monbulk Rd, Monbulk. (parking opposite road side to driveway)
For bookings and enquiries Phone: Sharni on 9756 6783.

Upwey South Primary School 50th Birthday Reunion
If you know anyone who was a student or a teacher at **Upwey South Primary School** tell them about our huge 50th Birthday Reunion! Saturday 9th August 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Harry’s Tree Services
Tree & Stump Removal; Pruning; Mulching; Cabling & Bracing; Possum Guards; Contract Climbing.
FREE QUOTES & Fully Insured. Cal or email Harry 0498 484 009 H.cole.j@gmail.com
Ex-The Patch School student 😊

Craft Classes for Patch Kids
Learn to sew, knit, crochet and felt! Classes are starting at The Patch Community Hall after school on Thursdays until 4.45. Cost is $8 per session and a $10 per term materials fee. Full term or casual options available. To sign up or for more information contact Jess Dunn 0408 102 542 or jessdunn.arts@gmail.com

Term 3 Kids Art Classes At Tiffaney Bishop Collective.
Bringing together creative play and development of skills, these art workshops allow your child to find and express their own unique voice through painting and drawing. Mondays 5 - 6:30pm, August 4th - September 15th, tiffaney bishop COLLECTIVE 1658a Burwood Highway, Belgrave.
$150 full term or $30 single drop-in session. shelleykrycer@gmail.com 0410 145 875
Bookings essential. Adult classes also running.
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 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. The Patch School parent, 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

Junior School Singers
Our Junior School Singing Group is up and running!
We are rehearsing every Wednesday at lunchtime in the music room. If your child would like to attend, this coming Wed 30th is the cut-off date for registration. We are working on fantastic songs for the The Patch School Showcase in September.
Cost: $48.00 per child, $72.00 for 2 children in a family. Open to students from Prep, Grade One and Grade Two.

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No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development & The Patch Primary School for accuracy of information contained in advertisement or claims made by them.