Dates to Remember

May
Thur 15th to Thu 22nd
Mon 19th
Mon 19th to Fri 23rd
Wed 21st
Thur 22nd
Tues 27th
Tues 27th
Fri 29th

Book Fair
School Council Meeting
Education Week
Open Morning & School Tours
Stomp the Beat Disco
Prep Community Excursion
Murrundindi
Prep Responsible Pet Ownership

June
Mon 9th
Mon 16th
Thurs 19th
Mon 23rd
Fri 27th

Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
School Council Meeting
Student Reports Sent Home
Parent / Teacher Interviews
(Student-Free Day)
End of Term 2
(Students dismissed at 2.30pm)

The Importance of Being at School

Most teaching is sequential – what is taught and learned today is the foundation that enables the child to understand and master what is taught tomorrow.

It is usually harder for a child to catch up on work missed, than to master it when it is being taught in class.

Look for Earthkeepers Camp News
In our Next Newsletter!!
From the Principal...

Thought for the week is: “Life’s challenges are not supposed to paralyse you, they’re supposed to help you discover who you are.” — Bernice Johnson Reagon

Welcome back to another busy term!
As always, there is a lot coming up with plenty of events and activities such as:
- ‘Stomp the Beat’ Disco for everyone who participated in this terrific dance program
- An Open Morning & School Tours to celebrate Education Week
- Another very popular Book Fair
- A visit from Murrundindi

The Rotary Club of Emerald & District has, once again, offered us the chance to participate in their Great Community Raffle. What is particularly special about this raffle is that the school keeps 100% of all money raised, whilst prizes and administration is managed by Rotary. As this is an offer too good to refuse, I hope you can support this effort. If every family could sell just one book of tickets to the value of $20, we could potentially raise $4000 for our school.

I am pleased to advise that The Patch School’s Annual Report 2013 and Annual Implementation Plan for 2014 are available for the school community and can be accessed through our website. We have refined our Annual Implementation Plan to be far more concise about the area we wish to target. This year we will be targeting numeracy. If you have any questions or feedback, please don’t hesitate to come and see me or send an email to my address provided below.

The presentation of our Annual Report to the Community will occur at 6.45pm prior to the June School Council, which you are very welcome to attend.

Have a great week.

Deb

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

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Winter is nearly upon us and it’s the best time of year to snuggle in bed or on the couch and read. So come to the Book Fair and find yourself a new book or two to pass those cold winter days.

Starts May 15th at 3.30 pm until May 22nd at 9am.
It is also a great fund raiser for the school library.
This year’s theme is ‘Reading Oasis’.
See you in the library!

Josie
Hello everyone!

If you wish your child to attend OSHC during 2014, please remember you must update your Enrolment Form and provide any medication to us (including asthma medication) that your child may need.

Belinda joins our program this term on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will be sharing our Assistants Position with Caitlin. Belinda holds a Post Graduate in Primary Teaching and is currently studying for a Diploma in Children’s Service for Kindergarten Teaching. Please make her welcome.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) will be attending our program on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th May for our assessment and rating visit. In line with current requirements, the following policies are being reviewed /updated:

- Administration of First Aid
- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
- Excursions and Service Events
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Staffing and
- Philosophy

Please see Sheila for further information. All policies and procedures are available on request.

Active After School Care activities this Term are:

- Zumba for 3 weeks starting next Monday
- Table Tennis for 4 weeks starting next Wednesday
- Softball begins on the 29th May for 4 weeks
- Frisbee Skills will also be offered – yet to be confirmed.

Thank you for sharing your children with us,

Sheila, Caitlin and Belinda

News from the Office

Thanks to all those families who have been providing us with prompt payments for the numerous activities that the children have been enjoying.

If you choose the convenience of paying by credit card and send in your details on the credit card slip, please remember to complete the form fully (including card expiry date & please also ensure funds are available) so your payment can be processed without delay.

As always, all payments & notes can be dropped in the metal box in front of the office counter and we are continuing to work on uploading all notices sent home to our website for you to access at your convenience if required.

We have several ways of communicating with families now. To stay up to date with what’s happening at school we ask that you:

- access our website regularly,
- register with tiqbiz or search for the smartphone or tablet app through the app store
- read your child’s class newsletter (also distributed via tiqbiz or our website) and
- register for our SMS system (orange form) used particularly, but not exclusively, for urgent information

Kind regards,
Karen & Jody
New Payment Option 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.

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.

An ANZAC Poem by Jude

Lie the poppies in your heart

Sorrow and sadness

Remember who saved us all
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.
FREE PARENTING COURSE

Tuning into Kids™

Help your child develop good emotional skills.
Are you a parent/caregiver of a child 3 years and above?

- Understanding and awareness of your child’s emotions
- Helping your child manage their emotions
- Preventing behavior problems in your child
- Teaching your child to deal with conflict
- Positive ways to interact together

What does the course involve?
Tuning in to Kids™ involves watching video material, group discussions and exercises, role plays, reading information, and home activities where you try out different ways of responding to your child’s emotions.

Children with higher emotional intelligence:
- Have greater success with making and keeping friends
  - Have better concentration at school
- Are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- Tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

- When: Fridays May 23rd – June 20th (5 Weeks)
- Time: 12.30- 2.30pm
- Venue: Upper Yarra Family Centre. Warburton Hwy. Yarra Junction
  - Limited Numbers: Maximum 15 parents
- Facilitators: Viv Miller-Coleman and Emma Woodfood

Registrations: Maureen Edwards Tel: 9294 6390

Free Occasional Childcare
Places are limited.
Parents/caregivers to complete A Registration Form.
Weed Blitz

Free Environmental Weed Tipping Day

Skips will be available at
Kallista Community House, Kallista

Saturday 31st May 2014

9am - 3pm

- Agapanthus
- Arum Lily
- Asparagus Fern
- Banana Passionfruit
- Cotoneaster
- English Holly
- English Ivy
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Karamu
- Mirror bush
- Montbretia
- Red Cestrum
- Sweet Pittosporum
- Wandering Trad
- Wild Tobacco Tree

When removing weeds please be aware of the potential that native animals may be sheltering in them. Always check woody weeds for nests before removing and where possible replace a weed with an indigenous native plant. Nest boxes are easy to make, inexpensive to buy and a great way of providing homes for native animals.

For information on weed removal techniques call 9294 6822 or

http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

WEED INFORMATION AND ADVICE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

We Cannot accept Noxious Weeds due to legal limitations on transportation www.depi.vic.gov.au

Event sponsored by the Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative and council's Weed Wipeout program
Community Notices

Upwey Community Storytime - Bookaburra
Parents, grandparents and/or young children are invited to join Bookaburra Volunteer Storytellers to share stories, books and reading together. FREE Weekly sessions commencing Friday 9th May 10am – 10.45am at Sherbrooke Family & Children’s Centre 1443 Burwood Hwy Upwey. Enquiries 9754 4432 for email sfcc@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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

Open Studios Weekend – 3rd & 4th May
Come and see how art is made! Over 30 artists from all across the hills open their studios to the general public on the weekend of 3 and 4 May from 10am to 5pm both days with lots of fun, artful activities for kids too - see all the details at www.openstudios.org.au. Each artist has also created a new piece of art which is on display at Burrinja's Jarmbi Gallery - start your journey there! This group exhibition entitled "Balance" is on there until 18 May.

HART SCHOOL OF DANCE - Sassafras established 37 years.
Quality Dance tuition in a fun learning environment for all ages with experienced highly qualified teachers. Fully equipped studio. Offering Jazz, Tap & Musical Theatre, Ballet & Lyrical classes, Special Tiny Tots program for 3-5 year olds and all new Acro Class and Junior/beginner ALL BOYS Class.
For more information check out www.hartschoolofdance.com.au & like us on Facebook or phone Brooke on 0400594558 to book in for your free trial!

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.

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 scceast@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!

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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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