Dates to Remember

**July**
- Mon 14th: Beginning of Term 3
- Wed 30th: Prep 2015 Open Morning

**August**
- Tues 19th: Murrundindi visiting
- Fri 22nd: Daffodil Day Free Dress Day

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

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**Bon Voyage Gil!**

During the holidays, Gil will be heading to Fukuoka, Japan, as part of the Australian-Pacific Children’s Conference. Gil is one of just 250 children from the Asia-Pacific region gathering to foster understanding and tolerance amongst all cultures.

*Have a great time Gil – we are all very proud of you!*
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: “A teacher can affect eternity: they can never tell where their influence stops.” - Henry Adams

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

This week we have farewelled Nicole and Haley. Over the last 6 years we have seen both of these fabulous and caring teachers blossom at The Patch. Both girls will be missed immensely by the students, staff and, of course, the parents. Many of you have formed strong links and benefited from their wisdom over the years. On behalf of the school and the community we wish them every success as they both head off on a brand new journey.

ARE YOU READY?

– have you circled the 18th September on your calendars?

THE PATCH SHOWCASE is coming!!!

Safety at School and Dogs – You will be aware of the issue at a neighbourhood school with a recent dog attack in school grounds. Whilst we are a dog-friendly school, it is important that when on school grounds, all dogs must remain on leads and must remain under the supervision of an adult at all times. At no time can children be allowed to walk around the yard with their dog. Even with an understanding of responsible pet ownership, it is imperative we are aware that dogs can become frightened when amongst large groups of children. We also ask that if you bring your dog to school they must remain under your supervision at all times.

Incident Alerts - The below table is an indication of the Alerts we receive from the department. They include a Standard Alert, in the instance of a playground accident, Green - Information Only which is generally weather warnings, Amber - Heightened Awareness, where we are required to be prepared and vigilant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alert Level</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Standard Incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Information Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber</td>
<td>Increase levels of vigilance &amp; preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Inform school / community &amp; take appropriate actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Implement School Emergency Plan</td>
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Amber Alerts may relate to children be approached by unknown females/males in cars, or followed home. They are often concerning due to the number of students that walk home or catch the bus. When we receive an Amber Alert the school staff will discuss stranger danger and how children could keep themselves safe if they found someone following them or asking for a ride a home.

Often these are alerts are not in the vicinity of The Patch– we will be using the SMS/tiqbiz for your information if we have received an AMBER alert so that you can be mindful of the pickup and drop off of your children, to monitor their safety and discuss what measures you have in place if someone unknown approaches them.
From the Principal... continued

As a school, it is our priority to keep your children safe but we are unable to monitor what occurs before school hours of 8.45am and after school hours of 3.45pm. Before and After School Care are a great help if you are working or, if you have children over the age of 16 that can pick up your younger children, this is a safe alternative as well.

The remaining alerts are generally around an evacuation or threat to the safety of the children and staff.

Have a safe week,

Deb

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.

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.
Our Amazing Students

Last Sunday I completed my June Superhero Challenge at karate. It was a big day where his entire martial arts group showcased their individual talents. We all worked together as a team, gained experience and won in front of over 200 people. It was fantastic! We were given a trophy to acknowledge our hard work.

By Patrick 5/6A

Great job Patrick! You have shown commitment, discipline and dedication to your team and your teachers – all very important qualities to develop! Keep up the terrific work!

On Saturday 14th June, Hannah from 5/6A participated in her first inter-club gymnastics competition at National Level 3 at the Eclipse Gymnasium in Ringwood. A team competition where each team can have up to 5 members, Hannah’s club (Knox Gymnastics) chose to enter two teams with three girls in each. This meant all of their scores counted for their team’s score and, having less than the maximum five team members, each girl needed to try even harder to earn the most points possible. All the Knox girls rose to the occasion, and handled the competition environment with confidence and maturity. They did their best, performed well, and we are very proud of them! Hannah’s team was Knox Red and they achieved the following incredible scores:

Vault: second place, Bars: first place, Beam: first place, Floor: first place and Overall: first place!

Congratulations to you and your team, Hannah! You have demonstrated incredible teamwork, determination and enormous talent to be overall winners with fewer competitors than most teams! Well done!
As we are about to embark on a new life in Boston, USA, we would like to say a big thank you to all the gorgeous staff and students for making Scarlett and Tenneille’s learning journey so wonderful.
If anyone would like to keep in contact with the girls, our email address is cint@cinandgreg.com.
With kind regards,
Jacinta, Greg, Scarlett, Tenneille & Jairah Munn

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 14th 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 1st August 2014.

World Refugee Week
From June 16th to 20th the Dandenong Ranges AMBER group (Australian Mothers Building Empathy and Respect) held a food/material goods drive for World Refugee Week. Non-perishable foods such as cereal, dried fruit, tinned vegetables and fruit, tea and coffee, spices, hygiene items and blankets were placed in two large tubs at the office and were quickly filled by our caring community. All goods were collected and donated to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre by our AMBER members and very gratefully received by those in need.

Thank you to all those who donated goods for the Centre. If you missed out this time, there will be a time allocated every term for a similar collection.

Stay tuned for the dates or see the ‘Dates to Remember’ in the school newsletters next term.
Our Garden Opening

On Wednesday, June 25th from 12 noon until 1pm, Years 4, 5 and 6 from the Ngarrert Building celebrated their official garden opening. In 2012, the newly built Years 4, 5 & 6 Learning Centre provided a blank canvas for students to develop and link to the adjacent multi-award winning school gardens; a garden that would provide further ecological learning opportunities and deeper nature connections in a world where these are increasingly important.

Over the last two and a half years, Year 4, 5 & 6 students have identified the learnings they wished to facilitate through the garden project, conducted site surveys and analysis (including site measurements, soil tests, soil pH, aspect, drainage and safety issues), produced preliminary drawings individually and in groups, created garden models of their ideas, identified the primary garden elements as expressed in their models, prepared a landscape plan and identified the individual projects that made up the concept plan. Students then shared their ideas with the community, prepared the site and began to implement the various components of the garden including a world garden, meditation space, Japanese garden, sound pergola, animal play space, wildlife attracting gardens, edible gardens, murals, outdoor seating areas, arbors, mosaic paver pathways, artwork and even a giant chess board. Students worked collaboratively and independently, gaining important life skills and embedding sustainable living practices and have created a beautiful, inspiring and imaginative living landscape that will continue to evolve and grow.

It was wonderful to see so many families come along to share the excitement and joy of finally cutting the red ribbon and declaring the gardens officially open after such a long process. Thank you to all those smiling parents, grandparents, siblings and friends who came and shared the special moments.

Have a look at some of the images below to see some of the highlights. There will be an item in the Yarra Valley News in the coming weeks, keep an eye out for it.
Today’s Busy Assembly...

Today we not only acknowledged the achievements of those students who were presented with certificates at assembly, but we made several other important presentations:

- We said good bye to Haley as she prepares for the arrival of her new baby
- We wished Gil ‘bon voyage’ as he heads to Japan over the holidays for the Australian-Pacific Children’s Conference
- In an initiative of our Recycling Monitors, we congratulated the Preps & Grade 1A for being our best recyclers for the term. This presentation & certificates were prepared and designed by our Recycling Monitors.

We also said farewell to Nicole after Wednesday’s concert, where she was presented with flowers and a book from the students.
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).

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.
New Monitors Take New Responsibilities

Have a look at our new monitors from Years 5/6 who have recently been presented with their badges and areas of responsibility. They are

Erica – Japanese Monitor

Chloe, Tameika, Oscar, Hannah, Finlay and Sasha – Art Monitors

Liam, Erica, Keshet, Sadie, Nyssa and Cadhla – Music Monitors

We also have new outside Animal Monitors who take care of our chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs.

This job changes at the end of each semester as it is a daily responsibility and quite intense!

Caitlyn, Ada and Sophie – Rabbits and Guinea Pig Monitors

Finn, Ashley, Caellan and Ross (returning Team Leader) – Chicken Monitors

Well done everyone and thank you for taking on your new responsibilities.
Congratulations to all students who received certificates at recent school assemblies. Keep up the great work!
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 fortnightly 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.
Nursery Rhyme Dress Up Day in Prep

Today the Prep students enjoyed dressing up as a nursery rhyme character for the final part of their current literacy unit. Students have been reading nursery rhymes, discussing the rhythm & rhyme of language and writing their own rhymes. This is a great way to introduce young children to the pleasure of reading!
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.

**Footy Day**
Tuesday 8th July  12noon – 3pm  Come and experience a day of all things footy... and it’s fun and free!
Footy sing-along with Greg Champion; SEN Promotion, Footy Clinics, Handball Competition, Face painting, Footy Craft, Hot Dogs plus loads more. Ferntree Gully Community Art Centre & Library 1010 Burwood Hwy Ferntree Gully
PLUS join in a pottery class and create your own footy plaque 10am & 1pm Ph 9758 9180

**Burrinja’s School Holiday Program**
Information about Burrinja’s July School Holiday Program which features an exciting set of Kids Theatre shows and a 10 Day Interactive Circus Festival with shows and workshops for all ages is available on our website www.burrinja.org.au

**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

**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
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. 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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