Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<th>MARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur 28th</td>
<td>Sushi Lunch Day</td>
<td>Thur 28th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 18th</td>
<td>Community Sub Committee Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>Tue 19th</td>
<td>Close the Gap Day</td>
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<td>Wed 27th</td>
<td>Prep Nursery Rhyme Day</td>
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Thought for the week: *The only limit to our realisation of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.*

- Franklin D Roosevelt

We have had a very smooth start to the term including a great day at The Log Cabin Ranch for the Year 5 & 6s. Thank you to all the parents for dropping them off and to the Year 5 & 6 team and students – a very worthwhile day.

I asked the students “What is a Leader and what style of leadership do you need to be an effective leader”.

I would like to share a few of the responses from the many answers give to me:

“I think a leader is someone who is honest and respectful, who has some great ideas by putting one idea with a second idea and who does not let a little thing stop him or her from doing things.”

“One of Deb’s highest expectations is how we are always helping each other, being respectful of the school and each other in the playground and in the classroom.”

“A leader needs to be mature and well behaved. They need to be well spoken, a role model to others and know what to do with their responsibility of being a leader. We need to be real grade 5/6s and prove were responsible and respected.”

On Wednesday we practiced an emergency evacuation to the Hall with children from Years 1 – 6. Our purpose was to identify that our procedure works in the event of an incident. The children were well aware of what they need to do and I am pleased to say we had evacuated the school and were locked down within 9 minutes. In the next few weeks we will also be working as a whole school - Kinder to Year 6. Please familiarise yourself with the classroom emergency management procedure that we have displayed in every room and also included in this newsletter.

Also on Wednesday we had our first Prep family picnic. A big thankyou to Lynda Loveridge who organised this event. A fun night was had by all on the oval with beautiful cool weather. We look forward to future events this year as we work together in partnership.

Have a great week

*Deb*

Principal’s email: herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
NEW BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT APPROACH   - ‘STEP UP FOR SUCCESS’

Despite there being few issues with behaviour at The Patch, staff have decided that we should have a whole school approach to behaviour management – one that is consistent across all grades.

**STEP UP FOR SUCCESS** is a 3 step approach that can be easily implemented at any level in the school. It is simple for students to understand and for teachers to implement.

**STEP UP FOR SUCCESS** is an approach that focuses on positive outcomes, is clear visually for students and teachers to track and allows individual teachers ownership in terms of using their own preferred reward system.

**STEP UP FOR SUCCESS** has another very important dimension in its application that many other approaches to behaviour management overlook. It can act as a catalyst for teachers to focus on those children who often just ‘fit in’ – but who can easily be overlooked due to others demanding or needing more attention. Because of the clear visual aspect of where children are placed on the Step Up For Success chart, teachers can be more pro-active with those who always do the right thing but sometimes go unnoticed.

A culture of positive reinforcement and encouragement permeates all facets of our school and underpins all our interactions with children wherever possible.

*** In the next newsletter I will explain in more detail how we are implementing this approach to Behavior Management and outline the steps involved.

Lynne Pearce
Assistant Principal

CLASSROOM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

The following information is displayed in all classrooms and is to be followed in the event of an emergency:

Please familiarise yourself with the current approved Emergency Management Plan procedures. This will assist us when we are practicing our drills with your children.

In the event of an EMERGENCY the following plan will be used:

1. An announcement will be made explaining Lockdown/Lockout/Evacuation details.
2. Message will be repeated
3. A Siren will sound

One Continual Siren:          Evacuate to Hall
Siren with Two-Second Intervals:  Evacuate to Oval

Procedure

On hearing siren:
- Teacher will collect attendance roll and Emergency Management Plan folder
- Check adjoining withdrawal areas for any students
- Close windows and turn lights off as the class leaves the room
- Assemble children in an orderly fashion for evacuation to Hall or Oval using route depicted on evacuation map (on wall inside classroom door)
- Evacuate by external door to Hall or Oval
- Once at Assembly point all children are accounted for to ensure no child or visitor has been left behind.

**UNIFORM SHOP CHANGE OF DAY**

Please note that the Uniform Shop will be changing it’s opening day to **WEDNESDAYS at 2.30pm – 3pm**

from WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2013.
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.
Parenting Online

I think the internet is a wonderful resource for children to use, but it is also one that needs guidelines and monitoring and I would encourage all parents to think about how they are doing this at home. Below is a guidance sheet which has been sourced from “The Cybersmart program”. It has some very practical ideas around helping keep your children safe. This site has many ideas for Parents, teachers and students and if you have the chance it is well worth the time. The Cybersmart program provides a range of cyber safety materials for parents and their children. For more information, resources, advice and tips, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au. Encourage your children and teens to take a look around the website. If you have young children, you may like to explore it together to help them understand how to protect themselves against online risks and make the most of their experiences online. The following general internet safety tips are a good starting point to help your children become safe and responsible internet users.

- At this age children’s internet use should be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them. Bookmark a list of favorites you are comfortable with your child visiting and teach them how to access this list.
- Teach your child that there are ways they can deal with material that worries or frightens them—they should immediately tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable about something they have found on the internet or received in an email. Teach them how to close a web page or turn off a monitor if they are worried.
- Establish rules around the types of content or information they should report to an adult. For example, one rule may be ‘tell Mum or Dad about any swearing or bad words you find’.
- Talk to your child about personal information and why it is special. This sort of information can be used to identify or locate where they live, go to school or activities in which they are involved.
- Set rules—make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online and which websites they can visit. Telling a trusted adult before posting any personal information online, including for competition entry is a useful rule.
- Help your child understand that what they say and do online is important. Encourage your child to use the same manners, communicate with others in the same way and report others who aren’t being nice, just as they would in the offline world.
- Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages and to report any negative messages they receive to you or another trusted adult.
- Consider using filters, labels and safe zones to help manage your child’s online access.
- Install and update anti-virus and other e-security software to restrict unauthorized access to data on the home computer and protect that data from corruption. Ensure that security features including a firewall are turned on, set to automatic scan and updated regularly to protect against the latest risks.
- If your child shows changes in behavior or mood that are concerning explore your concerns with them and if necessary seek professional support, including through the Cybersmart Online Helpline at www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx. The Cybersmart Online Helpline provides free, confidential online counseling for children and young people. Your child’s school may also be able to provide guidance and support.

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.
**Traffic**

It has been reported to us that some local residents are very concerned about the number of people travelling along The Patch Road and crossing Camms Road without stopping at the Stop sign – particularly around the time when school begins and ends each day. This is an extremely dangerous intersection so we are hoping you will all take note of this and exercise caution. Police have apparently been contacted to put in place some surveillance at this intersection so we are alerting you to this.

Parking concerns have also been raised by residents with the Shire of Yarra Ranges regarding the roads close to the school. We believe that by laws officers will be patrolling the area and issuing infringement notices where applicable. Please see the information from the Shire regarding parking included in this newsletter.

Lynne Pearce  
Principal

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**News from our Learning Landscape**

Hello all and welcome back to a new and exciting year. Everything is growing well in our garden, including the weeds, and we are already well underway with new garden developments that will see the landscapes around our new buildings (the 5/6 building and the 1/2 building) transformed into student designed and built learning spaces that enrich the curriculum and provide additional spaces for relaxation, exploration and investigation. At this stage the 5/6 students are finalizing their concept plan after identifying the key elements they wish to see incorporated in the design whilst the 1/2 students have begun drawing their garden ideas after viewing inspirational examples from books and our own garden. The image below is one of twelve year 5/6 models of the landscape they wish to create.

On another note, a big thank you to our wonderful parent helpers who kept our animals and garden fed and watered over the summer holidays. How fortunate we are to have such committed and reliable families! If you wish to add yourself to our team of volunteers, please see me at the Eco-Centre.

We have our first Garden Team meeting for the year next Tuesday and would love to see some new members. We meet once or twice a term in the staff room at 7.30 and go until 9pm or so. Please consider joining, it's actually a lot of fun!

Cheers, Michelle
Parking

How to Request:
- Enforcement of Parking Restrictions.
- Changes to Parking Restrictions.

Parking within Yarra Ranges

In comparison with inner city areas, Yarra Ranges is well supplied with parking. However some areas, mainly closer to the larger township centres, recreation reserves and schools, may experience minor parking problems during peak periods. Even in these locations parking is usually available within walking distance.

The provision of parking must be balanced against the need for vehicles to safely use/access roads and driveways. The road network can also provide access for bicycle riders, pedestrians and public transport users.

Parking is usually provided, or is available, for residents, customers, traders, school parents, sports fans, visitors, emergency vehicles, goods deliveries and for people who require accessible parking.

To cater for differing users, parking restrictions may be installed:
- in shopping areas to enhance trading activity
- in residential areas to meet resident needs
- near public transport hubs to encourage public transport use.

Parking Enforcement

Council’s Local Laws Officers monitor parking areas on a regular basis. If you park illegally, you can be fined. It's important to be familiar with the Road Rules.

Local Laws Officers also respond to requests from residents and traders for enforcement of parking restrictions. Please describe clearly the location of the parking issue and the most prevalent times of the day or the week.

Parking Changes

Residents and traders are welcome to request changes to parking restrictions. These requests are assessed by the Traffic Engineers in the Civil Development Services Department. The process involved is summarised over leaf.
The Parking Change Process

When Council receives a request for a parking change, the Traffic Engineers investigate whether a suitable change is possible and will then prepare a parking proposal.

Where the change is considered to be a safety issue, affected residents, traders and organisations will be notified by mail of the change and given time to discuss issues they may have with the proposal. Suggestions will be considered and where appropriate changes may be included in the proposal.

In other cases, affected residents, traders and organisations are asked to return a questionnaire indicating whether they support the proposal or amendments to the proposal. These respondents will be notified of the outcome of the survey.

New signs are ordered and installed. As many of the signs are custom made, eight weeks should be allowed for installation of the signs to be completed.

Note: There may be times when requests for change will need to be supported by a petition, or the local traders group or a school council.

Permit or Paid Parking

Permit Parking and/or Paid Parking are more suited to inner metropolitan areas where the demand for parking is high.

Accordingly Yarra Ranges is not considering implementation of a Permit Parking System or a Paid Parking System.

Road Rules that Limit Parking

1. Parking clear of driveways

The road rules require parked vehicles to leave adequate space for other vehicles to use driveways. On narrow roads you may need to park well clear of driveways to allow space for turning vehicles to access the properties.

2. Parking clear of footpaths

It is not allowable or safe to park a car or truck on or blocking a footpath. Footpaths cater for adult and child pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs.

3. Parking 3 metres clear of:
   - continuous centre lines
   - vehicles on the other side of the road
   - the far side of the road

The road rules require you to leave three metres of roadway clear to allow through traffic and emergency vehicles to travel along the road. Trucks can measure 2.5 metres in width and with their side mirrors they may use the full three metres. Where a continuous centre line restricts vehicles to one lane you must allow three metres between your parked vehicle and the centre line.

4. Parking on road shoulders but not on nature strips

The road rules do not allow parking on nature strips. Nature strips can be identified as areas that have kerb and channel or grassed areas. The new low profile roll-over kerb and channel was introduced to reduce damage to tyres but you should continue to park on the roadway not half or fully on the nature strip.

5. Long vehicles and towing

Long vehicles and cars towing a trailer, caravan or boat with a combined length of more than 7.5 metres in length can park for a maximum of one hour in a built-up area.

6. Moving between parking spaces

To avoid a parking fine you must leave a shopping centre or street. Moving your vehicle from one space to a nearby space may not avoid a parking fine.

For further information please contact Yarra Ranges Council on 1300 368 333 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Council's Local Laws Department and Civil Development Services Department can both be contacted:

Via Email: mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
By Phone: 1300 368 333
By Mail: PO Box 105
LILYDALE VIC 3140

The VicRoads web site has information about the Victorian Road Rules.

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
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years. From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option
From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts – 2013

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<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable.
Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: Karen or Jody in the School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013
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
Music Information Night – In Schools Music
For those parents who already understand that music is an important part of a child’s education, here is a chance to discuss the top 7 stumbling blocks that parents need to know before you start.
Thursday 7th February 8.00pm to 8.45pm Cost:nil - must RSVP ismusic@bigpond.com
Dandenong Ranges Music Council, Upwey High School. Enter Marchant Avenue - well signed
In Schools Music offers music lessons in your primary school in school time.
Presenter will be Andrew McAllister. 0408 467 147 To get an information pack, RSVP 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!

Jindi Woraback Youth Mentoring Program
Youth Services at Yarra Ranges Council currently coordinates a youth mentoring program targeting young people aged 15-25 who are in need of additional support, friendship and positive role modelling. We are in need of Learner Driver mentors (L2P) to work one on one with learner drivers aged 16-21 years who face significant barriers with obtaining their probationary drivers licence. The primary function of the role is to supervise learner driving practise sessions to assist the young person to become a safe and lawful driver.
The L2P program includes training, a safe vehicle and ongoing support for the mentor. All volunteers must satisfactorily complete a screening, induction and training process. Mentors are required to commit to a minimum of 1 hour a week, for a 12 month period. If you are interested, please attend the Mentor Information Night to be held at Montrose Town Centre (Hall) on Wednesday 13th March at 6.30pm.

Wandin North Harvest Market
Sunday 17th March 9am – 2pm Wandin North Primary School 220 Warburton Hwy Wandin North
Quality Craft, Food, Fresh Produce, Activities, Free Entertainment and Free Parking
Stallholders Welcome. Contact Megan Gibbons 5964 4259

Monbulk Junior Football Club
Registration date: Friday 22nd Feb & Friday 15th March 6pm-8pm Log Cabin Cost: $150 player/$210 family
Girls & Boys Welcome! Season begins Sunday 14th April. Phone Brett Gillard 0402 467 166
rangesviewnursery@bigpond.com or Mark Mannens 0488 684 948

Extreme Tennis Summer 2013 Special Offer
Enrol for Term 1 and receive a FREE racquet valued at $30. NB: This is a once a year Summer special. Offers are only valid for NEW customers not currently enrolled in lessons at an EXTREME TENNIS venue.
Ferny Creek Tennis Club – Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays  Selby Tennis Club – Tuesdays
Upwey South Tennis Club – Wednesdays
For further enquiries or enrolments, please phone/email Stuart & Diana Sutterby @ Tennis Australia Club Professionals, T.C.A.V Advanced Coach, A.T.P.C.A Reg. Level 2 & Bachelor of Teaching
9759 6475 / 0412 106 416 / 0403 525 111 contactus@extremetennis.com.au www.extremetennis.com.au