IMPORTANT UNIFORM NEWS

Sadu, our uniform supplier of 25 years, Lardners Fabric Design, has decided to cease operations, effective immediately. Their local operation is now no longer viable in the current market.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank both Jeanette & David for their outstanding service to our school over many years. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Therefore, we are currently sourcing a new uniform supplier. In the interim, we will have a limited supply of some of the items listed on the Uniform Order form.

In particular, we are in very short supply of navy short sleeve polo shirts and summer dresses.

Therefore, I ask that you please visit the Uniform Shop to determine which sizes are still in stock before you submit orders & payment for both of these items.

The ladies who run the Uniform Shop are all parent volunteers, who commit their time on top of their own family and employment commitments. They have been working tirelessly in recent weeks to improve systems, and source stock that will be the best possible fit for our school.

We ask for your understanding and respect for the hours they are available to help us.

Our volunteers are very close to finalising a new supplier, and therefore orders for these items will be available in approximately 6-8 weeks.

Please remember that you are most welcome to order & pay for other uniform items at the Office at any time except Fridays.

Our Uniform Shop is open from 8.45am to 9.15am every Monday morning.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition period.
From the Principal...

Quote for the Week: Kindness costs nothing... - Irish Proverb

This year we have implemented many new responsibilities for our Year 5 & 6 children and will present them with their certificates and badges of responsibility at Assembly in the next 2 weeks. Our leaders have all written expressions of interest for particular roles to Michelle and I and we have chosen the successful children. The parents of these children will receive a letter inviting them to the presentation Assembly when the date is finalized – we are waiting to hear from The Honorable Tony Smith as to his availability to attend.

Today I had the pleasure of addressing the Year 5 & 6 students about what qualities make student leaders great! Below you will find a small section of that conversation:

No-one is a born leader—everyone can develop leadership skills and everyone can benefit from using them. A leader isn’t always the boss, isn’t always popular and has the ability to reflect inwardly on who they are and what they will contribute to the people they are involved with. First, take time to honestly look at yourself inwardly. Learn to understand yourself, as this is the first step to understanding others.

Consider these important questions:

1. What kind of leader am I?
2. One who helps solve problems?
3. A leader who helps people get along?
4. How do others see me as a leader?
5. What are my goals, purposes, and expectations in working with this particular group?

Identify areas for improvement. Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I try to be aware of how others think and feel?
2. Do I try to help others perform to the best of their abilities?
3. Am I willing to accept responsibility?
4. Am I willing to try new ideas and new ways of doing things?
5. Am I able to communicate with others effectively?
6. Am I a good problem solver?
7. Do I accept and appreciate other perspectives and opinions?
8. Am I aware of current issues and concerns at school or in my community?

After looking inwardly at your strengths and weaknesses, take action.

Have a great week.

Deb

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EVERYDAY COUNTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.

It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx
PICK UP, PARKING & SAFETY

Managing the flow of traffic in and out of the school, car parking and supervising students as they leave at the end of the day are complex but manageable tasks and our staff do a great job with this every day. To ensure everyone in our school community is as safe as possible during these times, we ask that you observe a few rules to assist us in this area:

**Staff Parking** – remember that no parents or children are permitted in the asphalt staff car park, the lower gravel car park or in front of hopper as these areas are designated specifically for staff members.

**Visitor’s Gravel Car Park** – for the safety of everyone, children need to be supervised in the main gravel car park. With constant vehicle movement at the start and end of the school day, your safety and the safety of your children is paramount.

**Crossing the Road** – if you are parking outside of the school grounds, please collect your child from school and accompany them safely to your car. Children should not be crossing roads alone.

**Public Bus** – we ask that children catching the bus towards Belgrave to wait in the bus shelter at the timetabled bus stop near the corner of The Patch Rd & Kallista Emerald Rd. The bus stop near The Patch Store is a ‘hail for bus’ only and concerns have been raised about children waiting at The Patch Store unsupervised and having to wave down the bus, often standing on the edge of the road to gain the bus driver’s attention. Many cars come and go in front of The Store and, once again, the safety of your children may be at risk.

**Grassy Bank at the Pick Up Area** – the grassy bank below the pick-up is an out of bounds area and no-one should be walking or playing there. Appropriate footpaths are provided and should be used. Unruly behaviour in this area before 3.45pm also distract staff from supervising students waiting to be collected.

Thank you for your attention to these important points and for your assistance in keeping everyone safe during school hours. If you would like to discuss any of these matters, please don’t hesitate to contact Deb.

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Your Bushfire Survival Plan & Code Red Days

Living and working in an environment as beautiful as the Dandenong Ranges requires us to take responsibility for our safety on days of significant fire danger.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has a policy in place stating that Government schools listed on the Bushfire At Risk Register must close on days of Code Red fire danger. Families will be advised up to 3 days and no later than 12pm on the day before if their school will be closing for this reason. Once declared, schools that have advised their community of closure will not change this advice regardless of improvements in the forecast weather.

Please click on the hyperlinks to the DEECD for full details on Code Red Days and Code Red Day FAQs. Our Emergency Management Plan is developed to keep everyone as safe as possible in the event of an emergency and one of the greatest threats we plan for is bushfire.

We have included our plan for Total Fire Ban days in this newsletter, so please read it and become familiar with the process we have in place. Preparing, understanding and practising a plan can alleviate some of the anxiety often felt during the summer months.

**Also note that on days of Total Fire Ban, students cannot walk home from school unaccompanied by an adult without written permission from their parents or guardians.**

For our families, the most important thing the school can do is encourage you to develop, practise and review your bushfire survival plan.

**If your bushfire survival plan involves leaving the area the night before or early in the morning when there is a High, Very High, Severe, Extreme or Code Red fire danger rating forecast, please do so.**

The only way your safety from bushfire can be guaranteed is if you are not here.

For lots of information and advice on planning & preparing for bushfire, visit the [Country Fire Authority website](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).
DID YOU KNOW?

The adult skeleton has 206 bones. The smallest is the stapes or stirrup, the innermost of three bones in the middle ear; the femur (thighbone) is the longest and strongest, and the tibia in the lower leg is the second largest in the human skeleton.

Hello from Tania and Megan,

We are very excited to be implementing the new Science Program at The Patch Primary this year and after some extensive training at the end of last year and an additional 5 days scheduled for the end of Term 1, we are now in the process of building a solid foundation for the program to ensure its long term success.

We will bring science into the classrooms towards the end of Term 1 and will start the full program from Term 2.

A letter requesting donations of materials went home earlier this week, so please start collecting these items and send them along to school with your child. We are also asking for donations of larger items such as laboratory coats and safety googles.

We look forward to seeing all parents at one of our two information sessions occurring on Tuesday April 1st (Evening) and Wednesday April 2nd (morning). Times will be confirmed closer to the dates.

Megan Inglese and Tania Blandthorn.
Science Co-ordinators

inglese.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
blandthorn.tania.t@edumail.vic.gov.au
Inter-School Swimming

Students from The Patch School (*three of these students are pictured below*) competed this week in the Inter-School Swimming Carnival with some great results! Congratulations to all participants and we will have further details on their success in the next newsletter.
Weren’t We Lucky On Valentine’s Day!

A big thank you to the Bell family for a very delicious morning tea!

Welcome to our wonderful community 😊
WANTED!
Agapanthus heads

Off with their heads!

There will be a skip for your agapanthus heads only at
The Patch Hall
Sat & Sun March 1-2

Now the aggies have finished flowering, help control the spread of this environmental weed by disposing of their heads before the seeds dry, fall off and end up in our bushland and waterways. Just lop, bag, bring and dump in the skip! Unable to dehead your aggies? We may have volunteers that can help you!

To register your need or to volunteer to help, or if you have have any enquiries, give Janine a call on 9752 0309 or email: info@thepatchlandcare.org.au
New Active After School Care Activities 2014

HOURS OF OPERATION & COST
7.30am – 8.45am breakfast included. Only $14
8.20am – 8.45am NO breakfast. Only $7
3.30pm – 6pm Healthy afternoon tea provided. Only $22
Talk to our staff about claiming Child Care Benefit and the application procedure.

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**
- **AFL 9s** – Mondays for 4 weeks from the 10th February
- **Volleyball** - Mondays for 3 weeks from the 10th February
- **Martial Arts** – Tuesdays for 4 weeks from the 11th February
- **Netball** - Wednesdays for 3 weeks from the 12th March
- **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
Community Notices

Musical Art Gallery in the Dome - Open Weekend
Tracey Roberts - hills performing / visual artist - is opening up her dome gallery / studio this weekend on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th Feb from 10am-5pm. Happy to chat about music, art, music-colour synesthesia and geodesic domes. Colourful, musically-themed limited edition fine art prints, art cards, CDs and the new Blu-ray release are available to buy direct from the artist. Also personalised artwork for that special gift. All welcome, plenty of parking. 25 William Rd, The Patch. tel: 0418 872 444 (also by appointment). For more info see www.traceyroberts.com

Monbulk Junior Football Club & AUSKICK Registration Day

Musical Art Gallery in the Dome - Open Weekend
Tracey Roberts - hills performing / visual artist - is opening up her dome gallery / studio on the weekend of Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd March from 11am-5pm. Happy to chat about music, art, music-colour synesthesia and geodesic domes. Colourful, musically-themed limited edition fine art prints, art cards, CDs and the new Blu-ray release are available to buy direct from the artist. Also personalised artwork for that special gift. All welcome, plenty of parking. 25 William Rd, The Patch. tel: 0418 872 444 (also by appointment). For more info see www.traceyroberts.com

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.

Aussie Hoops
Aussie Hoops is Basketball Australia and Basketball Victoria’s entry level program for kids aged 5 – 12 years. It’s a great way to learn and develop new skills and is all about having fun! All participants receive a draw string bag, a basketball and a reversible singlet. Cost is $60 per participant. Saturdays 22nd Feb; 1st, 15th, 22nd & 29th March; 3rd & 17th May from 10am til 11am. Forms available from the school office.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development & The Patch Primary School does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. 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.
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!**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 ¡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!

New Group Piano Lessons available at The Patch.
To complement the existing piano and music programs at the school, group keyboard lessons are now available for kids from Prep to Grade 6. Groups of 2 or 3 children (of similar ages) will learn piano and music-reading skills in a fun and inspiring way. $15 per child for half an hour.
Teacher: Fiona Seers (a Patch parent) with over 20 years teaching experience and a love and passion for music education. To enquire about booking a spot for your child please call Fiona on 0438 833 592 or email fionaseers@hotmail.com.