Dates to Remember

October
Tue 21st  Murrundindi Visiting
Wed 22nd  CFA ‘Gather at the Gate’ Community Education Event
Thur 30th  Prep 2015 Transition 9.30-10.30am
Fri 31st  Curriculum Day

November
Mon 3rd  Teacher Planning Day (alternative program)
Tue 4th  Melbourne Cup Day
Wed 5th  Prep – Gr 2 Swimming Program
-Thur 13th
Thur 13th  Prep 2015 Transition 9.30-10.30am
Mon 17th  Grade 3/4 Camp
-Wed 19th
Thur 20th  Prep/Gr 6 Buddy Excursion
Thur 27th  Prep 2015 Transition 9.00-11.00am (Art, Enviro, Music & Phys Ed)

December
Wed 3rd  Prep 2015 Parent Info Night 7pm
Thur 4th  Christmas Concert
Tues 9th  Step-Up Day
Tues 9th  Prep 2015 Formal Orientation
Wed 17th  Grade 6 Graduation
Fri 19th  Last Day of Term 4

Curriculum Day
Friday 31st October is a Curriculum Day for our school and students are not required at school.

Planning Day
Monday 3rd November is Teacher Planning Day. This is a regular school day and student will participate in an alternative program with relief teachers on that day.

Curriculum Day Program
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
If you require care for your child on Curriculum Day, our OSHC program is considering running on this day. To do so, we require a minimum number of bookings. If you would like your child to attend OSHC’s Curriculum Day program on Friday 31st October, please advise OSHC or office staff no later than 3.30pm Friday 24th October.

Please note that without sufficient bookings, this program will not run.

Thank you 😊
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: Don’t underestimate the incredible power of a simple smile and a kind word.  
- Don Ritchie 1925 - 2012

Yesterday Michelle, Jody and I attended the Emergency Management briefing for our Region. We are finalising the annual update of our Emergency Management Plan (EMP) to meet new legislative requirements and reviewing the processes we have in place to deal effectively with a variety of emergencies, should they arise.
Our current EMP is available for you to view on our website and the latest version will be uploaded by the end of November.
As we head toward another summer we would like to remind you of the importance of having a practised and relevant fire plan for your family. Be sure to go through this with your family so everyone understands what they will do if bushfire does impact our area. Being prepared can reduce some of the anxiety associated with such stressful times.
Remember also that CFA will be at school next Wednesday from 3pm – 4pm as part of the ‘Gather at the Gate’ community safety initiative and available to answer any questions you may have.

Our Emergency Management Plan includes SMS as a method of communication to our families. Inclusion in this data base is simply a matter of filling in the orange form available from the office or our website and ensuring any changes of mobile phone number are updated. We will be sending an SMS to you next week so if you do not receive anything by Friday, please fill out another SMS authorisation form and hand it in to Jody.

Thank you to those families who have advised us that they are moving away and will not be returning to The Patch School next year. If any of your children are leaving our school and you have not yet had a chance to let us know, please do so as soon as possible and before the end of next week. This is very important because we hope to announce classes and teachers for 2015 in the next newsletter.

It’s been a very busy start to the term and there will be plenty more to come before the end of the year.

Have a great week,

Deb

eherrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
A Message from the Bright Family…

In November last year I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. During last term I finished the last of my treatment for this awful disease. I want to take the opportunity to thank The Patch School community for all your support for me and my family during this time. It has been a pretty bad year for us and I am so very fortunate to have many friends and family that have been willing and able to lend a hand. Thank you for those who cooked us beautiful meals via the meal roster that Bree set up. The phrase “who cooked this mum?” became a regular one at our dinner table. Thank you to those who just left food for us without being on the roster. Thank you for those who baked for us when Bree again set up another roster—this time for baked goods while I underwent radiation. The kids thought all their Christmases had come at once. I now have a lot to live up to! Thank you to those who left flowers at the door, thank you to those who enquired about my health, and thank you to those who sometimes didn’t when they could see I was struggling, thank you to those who were extra nice to my kids, thank you for the compliments on my head scarves and hats, thank you for the hugs, thanks for being patient with my children, thank you to the teachers who were very patient when it came to late payments and forms and for me constantly forgetting dates and deadlines, and thank you to those who didn’t know me well enough to do or say anything but had me and my little family in their thoughts anyway. Each gesture, regardless of how big or how small, attributed to my recovery and ability to cope with what was thrown at me. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you very, very much.

From Kim, Dion, Logan, Indiana and Griffin Bright

Are You Interested In Trying a New Sport???
Active After School Communities is back for Term 4!

The very popular AASC program is on again this term with some great opportunities to try a new sport. This term we are offering:

- **Wheelchair Sports**
  - Monday the 27th October and 17th November.

- **Martial Arts**
  - Fridays beginning 21st November for 3 weeks.

- **Hockey**
  - Thursdays beginning 13th November for 4 weeks.

- **Tennis**
  - Wednesdays for 3 weeks beginning 15th October (excluding 22nd).

As long as you are enrolled in OSHC, you are welcome to attend for the cost of a regular after school care session.

Why not give it a go?

Contact OSHC staff for more details.
Visitors from Melbourne University

Last Thursday a group from Melbourne University came to visit our amazing garden so that they could get a better point of view about children’s gardens.

I was really happy to be chosen as a guide and my partner was Cadhla. We showed them around the garden and the eco-centre and they asked lots of questions about how we made the garden, whose ideas we used and how we got organised and got the products we needed to produce everything.

The great thing for me was realising that I knew so much and could answer their questions. Cadhla and I were a good team because whenever I didn’t know something she did and vice versa. I think that the visitors were impressed with how the students have created this garden and how we presented all that we know and have done. I really enjoyed this experience and hope to do another tour soon.

By Brodie Gould.

Brodie and Cadhla explain the process of creating the garden to Chris Williams, lecturer, and a horticulture student.
Mia and Emily show some of the students around the gardens, while Oscar and Gil discuss growing citrus.
Our final Working Bee for the year

Once again, a team of dedicated and hard-working parents joined us to work together to improve our school grounds. With the upcoming Open Garden Event next March, much work needed to be done to ensure our visitors get what they pay for – an inspirational and beautiful garden designed, built and cared for by the students and our community.

Last Saturday, over 50 people came along to prepare sites and plant ferns in the fern gully, prune and weave the willow structures (domes and “fedge” – a cross between a fence and a hedge), weed the 5/6 garden (recently entered in the School Gardens Awards for 2014), paint new signs for our buildings, rotary hoe a new planting zone in front of the 1/2 building, planting out new material, mulching our new Silver Garden, edge and upgrade pathways near the drop off area, and enjoy a sausage or two – amongst other things!

Thank you so much to all our lovely parents and community members, especially Dave Sands for organising ferns and materials for the fern gully (including growing young stock on in his nursery), Simone Broekel for her expertise and commitment to creating the best willow domes of all time, Deb Herrmann and husband Trevor for the delicious sausages and refreshments, Peter Kinrade for overseeing and organising the pathway reconstruction and the garden team for their dedication and great ideas to ensure our beautiful landscapes continue to improve and provide such valuable learning opportunities for our students.

Here are some photos of the day: Simone and Asher taming the willow domes.
Fashionable Fundraiser for OSHC

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to come along to an evening of fashion at Diana Ferrari, Westfield Knox!
Diana Ferrari will open exclusively for parents & friends of The Patch School on Monday 27th October from 6.30pm til 9pm.

There will be complimentary drinks, canapés and three door prizes (1 x $100 voucher and 2 x $50 vouchers) to be spent on the night.

Entry is via Level 2 near Westpac (Myer end) and a security guard will greet you.
Why not visit www.dianaferri.com.au and preview their range?

You can also shop in the week prior to the event, with purchases being paid for and held at the store until the night. Remember to let the store staff know you are with The Patch School OSHC fundraiser.
Limited places so bookings are essential. Only $10 per head. 
RSVP by text Sue Kidd on 0417 328 113 or email suekidd@bigpond.com

PICK-UP ETIQUETTE

We supervise nearly 300 children at the pick-up every afternoon but this is only possible when everyone works within the guidelines we have in place.

Please remember that cars are not to park anywhere along the gutter at the pick-up and you will notice that this is clearly marked (including just inside the entrance gate).

It does take patience on everyone’s part to manage this short window of time in a safe manner so we thank you very much for your understanding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our fabulous Uniform Shop Volunteers are in need of some help.
If you are interested in contributing a small amount of time to assist with some clearly defined jobs ranging from half an hour per month to a couple of hours each week, please consider speaking with the Uniform Shop ladies about joining their team.
This is a great way to get to know other parents, utilize your skills or perhaps learn something new.

Please give it some thought over the holiday break and, if you are at all interested, speak with one of the team on any Thursday morning (new opening time 9am – 9.30 Thursday) or leave your details with Jody at the office and we will arrange for someone to give you a call.

Thanks for your support 😊
Our Year 3/4s are in the media!

Keep an eye on the local papers over the coming weeks for three separate stories around the Yr 3/4 class curriculum and environmental education program which is working on improving and exploring our school grounds for wildlife. Much work has been undertaken in the wetlands where children have been measuring, calculating and investigating ways of solving complex mathematical problems such as determining angles, calculating perimeter and creating scale drawings.

Students proudly displaying some of the 15 nesting boxes built by a neighbor keen to help improve the nesting sites for wildlife on our school grounds.

Students proudly display our latest award for habitat improvement works – The ResourceSmart Biodiversity School of the Year Award, 2014. Image taken in our developing fern gully.

Finn, Oscar, Charlie and Amy with donated wildlife monitoring equipment received after students wrote letters requesting help to better monitor the wildlife in our school ground. Thanks to Charlie’s dad, Simon, four companies were approached and so taken by the quality and earnestness of the students’ letters that they all donated goods – a total value of over $2,500. Look out for this article and a follow up one in November detailing a Bioblitz to be undertaken on the school grounds later in the year. The bioblitz will give a clear picture of exactly what wildlife call our school grounds home.
PARENTING SEMINARS

VENUE: Monbulk Community Hub, Main Road, Monbulk

CONTACT: Helena Laverie Anglicare Parentzone 9735 6134 or 0488 501 204

COST: FREE (bookings essential)

Discipline vs Punishment
Monday October 20th 7pm - 9pm
What is discipline? Why doesn’t punishment work?

Behaviour
Monday October 27th 7pm - 9pm
Why do kids behave the way they do?
What is normal behaviour? What is misbehaviour?

Rules and Consequences
Monday November 10th 7pm - 9pm
What are positive rules? How do you make them work?

Dealing with Feelings
Monday November 17th 7pm - 9pm
Are you wanting to build your child’s emotional intelligence? What about their anger?

Resilience
Monday November 24th 7pm - 9pm
What is resilience? Can we teach our children how to handle the tough stuff in life?
Weed Blitz

Free Environmental Weed Tipping Day

Skips will be available at
Kallista Community House, Kallista
Kalorama Memorial Reserve, Kalorama

Saturday 15th November 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.

WEED INFORMATION AND ADVICE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

For information on weed removal techniques call 9294 6822 or http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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
You are invited to an exclusive shopping night of Fashionable Fundraising, where Diana Ferrari will donate **20% OF ALL SALES TO**

THE PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL OSHC

Treat yourself to a night of fashionable fun with friends, complimentary drinks and canapés!

**Monday 27th October 2014**
6.30pm - 9pm
Diana Ferrari Knox Boutique
Shop 2007A, Knox City
Wantirna South VIC 3152

**R.S.V.P**
Sue Kidd
Phone: 0417 328 113 (please text)
Email: suekidd@bigpond.com
Limited places available

$10 admission - to the fundraising box

diana ferrari
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.
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 😊

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

BURRINJA OPEN DAY
Burrinja Open Day, Sunday 19th October 11am til 3pm.
A day of visual, theatrical and experiential activities to inspire the artist in you.
FREE ENTRY For more information please visit www.burrinja.org.au

FURNITURE FOR SALE
French Provincial style dining room suite. Timber top with antique white base. Seven matching chairs and one carver’s chair. Matching buffet and TV cabinet. $1000 ono. Phone Trish 0438 888 865

MONBULK COLLEGE ART & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION
Monday November 10th 5pm – 7pm
David Hill Rd, Monbulk 9751 9000 Everyone welcome!

MONBULK cricket ‘IN2CRICKET’
Milo Cricket is back at Monbulk. With over 120 participants last season, this program is one of the most successful in the state, including one of the largest for female participants.
The MILO in2CRICKET program is an introductory program for kids between 5 and 9 years of age. The aim of the program is to provide young people with a fun and enjoyable way of learning the fundamentals of cricket while, at the same time promoting the values of the game – teamwork, friendship, and fair play.

Where Monbulk Cricket Club
Why A fun and organised 12 week program that helps develop cricket skills, fitness, social skills and sportsmanship.
Who All girls and boys aged 5 - 9
Co-ordinator Damian Howard
Phone 0429 900 183
email damianhoward1969@gmail.com
Cost $75 (includes bat, ball, t-shirt, back-pack, hat, drink bottle and more)
Day / Time Fri 5.30pm–6.30pm (BBQ each evening)

Registration Day: Friday 17th October - 5.30pm @ Monbulk Cricket Clubrooms
If possible, please register online @ in2cricket.com.au (enter Monbulk or 3793).
Please just pay on the 17th if you register online.

WELL-BEING FOR THE WHOLE BEING
Tai Chi: Beginners Classes starting early October: Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings, and Monday evenings.
Qi Gong: Beginners Class: Monday mornings.
Both suitable for all levels of fitness. Both excellent in preventative & restorative “maintenance”
Both recommended by GP’s for recovery from illness. Classes in Belgrave, Upwey, Sassafras & Silvan
For details: call Su at Chi Generation on 0437 949 919

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

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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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