Dates to Remember

September
Fri 19th  Last Day of Term 3 - 2.30pm finish

October
Mon 6th  Term 4 begins
Sat 11th  Garden Working Bee 10am-1pm
Thur 16th  Grade 2 Sleep Over
Tue 21st  Murrundindi Visiting
Wed 22nd  CFA ‘Gather at the Gate’
Thur 30th  Prep 2015 Transition 9.30-10.30am
Fri 31st  Curriculum Day

November
Tue 4th  Melbourne Cup Day
Wed 5th  Prep – Gr 2 Swimming
-Thu 13th  Program
Thu 13th  Prep 2015 Transition 9.30-10.30am
Mon 17th  Grade 3/4 Camp
-Wed 19th  Prep/Gr 6 Buddy Excursion
Thur 20th  Prep 2015 Transition 9.00-11.00am
(Art, Enviro, Music & Phys Ed)
Thur 27th  Prep 2015 Parent Info Night 7pm

December
Wed 3rd  Christmas Concert
Thu 4th  Step-Up Day
Tues 9th  Prep 2015 Formal Orientation
Tues 9th  Grade 6 Graduation
Wed 17th  Last Day of Term 4

Important Uniform News
Please note that from the first week of Term 4, 2014 the Uniform Shop will change its opening times to Thursdays 9am – 9.30am. Orders can still be placed at the office any day except Friday.

A Very Big Day for Mia
Yesterday, Mia M (5/6A) participated in the Yarra Glen, Monbulk and Warburton Winter Tennis Tournament and earned 1st place. What is even more impressive is that Mia accomplished this achievement between participating in the Showcase matinee performance and coming back for the evening show! That really takes an exceptional level of fitness, stamina and commitment!

Congratulations Mia for being an exceptional team player in both tennis and Showcase. Well done!

Have a safe and relaxing holiday break and we look forward to seeing you all again on 6th October for a busy Term 4!
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be. - Lao Tzu

Words cannot express the amazing talent, dedication and commitment of our teachers, students and community after last night’s “Showcase” performance. It is a privilege to work with such a supportive community and last night highlighted the extraordinary talents of so many of our students and staff. Everyone generously gave of their time, resources and skills and allowed for flexibility every step of the way, right up to the actual day where the whole school day was spent at Discovery Church - no easy task for any teacher. It was a true team effort!

In reflecting on last night, after being involved in four performances, it is wonderful to see the growth and confidence of children four years on and how much their ability to get up on stage and shine has increased. The ‘Caring for Our Community’ raffle last night was a huge success and raised $1,160. Donations from Sue Kidd, Lynne Stack, Sue Flynn, Edith Elias, Tammie Carter, Matthew & Nicola Ryan and Kim Bright were greatly appreciated. Our sincerest thanks to Tammie, Lynda, Edith, Sue, Marcy and Laura who capably took on this project from start to finish.

Another awesome thank you to the many parents who gave their assistance yesterday in the café and, in particular, to our baristas – Andrew, Marita, Michelle & Jess. Another job well done!

Have a wonderful and restful break

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

This is Why We Love Art!

Below you will find some beautiful words by Caitlyn that describe how she feels about Art.

At The Patch School we are very fortunate to have Karen, Lissa & Leanne taking our Art classes and we think Caitlyn’s words show what an impact they have on our students.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts, Caitlin.
Our fantastic school library has many wonderful books and it’s great to see the children reading during their library lesson. Whether it’s at the tables, lying on the floor in the sun, or up in the tower it’s a wonderful space.

Unfortunately books get lost. The school policy has been to replace the lost book with another book. In the past couple of months, there have been a lot of lost books.

It is important to remember, that the book that is bought to school to replace the lost one, must be the same type e.g. fiction for fiction, nonfiction for nonfiction, and of the same quality. Unfortunately, that has not been the case of late.

Thanks for your help,
Josie
**Indigenous Literacy Foundation Book Swap**

On the 3rd of September we had our Book Swap in the library. The children who participated had a lovely time choosing another book to replace the one that they had brought. Especially the Preps - they were very excited. We raised $40, which is not as much as in the past, but hopefully, next year we can do better. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation is an initiative of the Australian Book Industry, raising funds to address critically low literacy levels in remote communities across Australia. The Foundation works to improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote communities through the provision of books and literacy resources in over 200 communities across Australia.

As you can see, it’s a very worthy cause. Next year, let’s try to raise as much as we can to help this fantastic foundation.

Thank you to all who participated,

Josie

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**Interschool Sport Day Mountain District - Tuesday 16th September 2014**

There was a great buzz in the air when the buses rolled down the drive to collect the students to head down the hill to Monbulk Footy Oval. Stepping off the bus, children went in all directions. Some stayed at the oval to embark on a game or three of football. Others crossed the road and headed to the spectacular soccer oval to play minkey (modified Hockey) and four teams strolled up to the netball courts to play several games of netball. How lucky we were to have the mum of an Australian Commonwealth Games Netball Champion, Marg Hallinan, return to assist with the netball umpiring. Marg & I umpired every match on our courts and were thrilled that the final siren sounded just when the rain decided to fall.

The children were very well behaved and represented the school in true to Patch form, being fantastic sportsmen. I witnessed on many occasions students encouraging other schools whilst they were waiting off court and when they could see that they needed to give the other team a bit of a go they stepped back and let them have a few free shots at goal - something which we are all so proud to see.

Congratulations to all of our teams who played. We (the staff) look forward to taking our students to the Summer Sports early term four, where we know we again will be impressed by their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Kate Haley
Physical Education Co-ordinator
Art Extension at The Patch!

Did you know we ran an art extension group in the Eco-Centre on Wednesday afternoons with some of our talented parents and students from Year 5/6?

Five groups of students, each with an artistic parent, are creating large signs for each of our school buildings using the Wurundjeri name and artwork to represent it.

Our artists are:

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**Steve Page** and Yasmin, Braden and Poppy creating the sign for the Ngarrett Building (frog).

We are also assisted by **Natalie Latham** and James, Ethan and Sam.

Aren’t we lucky to have such talented and generous artists! Stay tuned for future developments.
Murrundindi spent some time recently teaching our Grade 2 students about a black wood wattle tree. The Wurundjeri people use the leaves to sanitize their hands! The students all took turns to wash their hands with the leaves! Now they are shining clean and have clean hands to eat off!!
The students in Grade 3/4B have created some wonderfully thoughtful and descriptive poems to describe how they feel about our Wetlands. Why not take some time to think about this unique place in our school grounds and what it means to you?

As the evening sun goes down
The sun shines rays of golden brown
The frogs are croaking happily
While possums merge from in a tree
Crickets sing their chirping song
From in the grass that’s oh so long
I look up in a tree to find
An owl that looks so wise and kind.

The Wonderland
As the sun comes out and the moon comes in
And the birds their song.
The crickets stop chattering
The owls start sleeping
And the frogs croak on and on.
That’s my wonderland.

Tameem 3/4B

The Place of Dreams
The water of the cram lake gently rubs agents the muddy ground,
The wind blows the ferns right to left.
The birds tweet as the gum trees leaves rustle,
The frogs crook. The wetlands are a choir of dreams the gracefulness in its sound,
The hope in its touch the wetlands are a living paradise.

By Lilian 3/4B

Wombat
I am a hurrying scurrying wombat,
Laugh at me you may for I am fat,
I have my own dance, yes, I sing and stomp and prance,
My eyes seek only the nights, I am soft and gentle and never think of fights.
I am a child of the wombat, and he is a part of me.

By Genevieve 3/4B

The Wetlands.
The Wetlands is full of happiness, joy and excitement.
A place of love, peace and quietness.
Awesome, lots of animals.
Big and odd shaped, many different degreeed angles.
A paradise of fun, full of habitats.
Animal sanctuary and the place to be!

Wetlands poem
The Wetlands is a paradise for anyone who sees it.
The Patch School wins Sustainability Victoria’s Biodiversity School of the Year, 2014!

We did it! After all the hard work by students at The Patch and, in particular, the Year 3/4s, we were awarded the ultimate acknowledgement at the ResourceSmart School Awards on Monday, October 8, at the Melbourne Convention Centre when we were selected from three state finalists as the “Biodiversity School of the Year”.

This award acknowledges the efforts of The Patch PS to improve and protect the school ground habitat for wildlife and to take actions that promote understanding around the concept of biodiversity and its importance in sustaining healthy ecosystems.
Our school representatives, **Logan, Jessica, Max, Sarah, Dylan, Jade, Ryley and Josh** travelled by train to Melbourne, taking our lovely wombat mascot Bob (donated by the Bendigo Bank) with teachers Naomi and Michelle. It was a very exciting and educational day and we all had a wonderful time.

Our Year 3/4 students focus on Biodiversity in their Environmental Education curriculum and have been implementing actions that they identified as necessary to improve our school ground habitat. These actions include things like re-vegetating our school boundaries with indigenous plants, removing environmental weeds and under-planting our large trees to protect root zones. Students have discovered the importance of tree canopies as “highways in the sky” for our arboreal animals, the competition for scarce nesting/breeding sites such as tree hollows and the importance of a vast array of local plants to provide a diverse food supply.

Students in Jennie’s and Naomi’s Years 3/4 have also been undertaking some fascinating studies that have taken them into our school wetlands and exposed them to a myriad ways of mapping, measuring, calculating and examining the site. They have enjoyed a guest appearance by Simon Mustoe, wildlife expert and creator of the “Wildlife Diaries” series and have plotted and planned ways of accessing some specialized equipment to study our local wildlife more closely. Students wrote letters to providers of wildlife cameras and have been overwhelmed by the generosity of donors; already we are the proud owners of two trail cameras that can monitor wildlife in our school grounds.

In addition to the donated cameras, we are also the proud recipients of 15 wonderful nesting boxes! Our lovely neighbor, Bob Rye, an ex-boatbuilder and carpenter, constructed the nesting boxes according to specifications we gave to house bats, sugar gliders, kookaburras, parrots, possums, and more! All boxes were made using recycled and reclaimed materials; how lucky are we to have such generous people in our neighbourhood. Our students shall paint the boxes prior to having them installed in our large native trees and with a camera pointing their way, who knows what we may see!
A Visit to Emerald Glades

Last Wednesday, September 10th, The Patch Grades 3-6 Choir visited Emerald Glades Aged Care facility. The students performed five items for the residents, who had gathered specifically for our special visit. The students were thanked with a lovely afternoon tea of fairy bread and cordial. This was such a special experience for our students. Thank you to all the parents & staff who were able to help with transport and to Fiona, Jennie and Pauleen for your help on the day.
... a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words.
GETTING CREATIVE IN THE GARDEN

Our students are always finding something interesting to do in the Garden 😊

MAKING POTIONS AND NESTS

Ask your child about the things they do in the Garden – you may be surprised to discover it is much more than simply gardening!
**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 😊

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**Colouring Competition Winners**

The Monbulk & District Community Bank recently held a colouring competition in conjunction with the Monbulk Classic Car & Bike Show. Three talented students from The Patch School were the lucky winners!

Congratulations to Miette 1A, Anton 3/4B and James 5/6B who each had their entries displayed and received a $10 bank account with Monbulk & District Community Bank

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**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.

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**Car Damaged at Showcase**

During yesterday’s Showcase matinee, the car of one of our staff members was damaged. A note was left on the vehicle which appeared to have caused the damage so we are hoping the owner will contact the staff member soon. They are also welcome to contact the school next term if they have misplaced the note. Accidents happen but we all appreciate consideration towards those affected.
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

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.
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

**Belgrave Library’s September School Holiday Activities**- Bookings are essential for all activities. Phone Belgrave Library on: 97547266

**Monday 22nd September 11am MOVIE MORNING** Bring a comfy cushion for a relaxing, family-friendly movie. Popcorn and cordial provided. Ages 4+

**Monday 29th September 11am BUGS AND OTHER CRAZY CRITTERS** Let your imagination run wild and have heaps of fun making some crazy bugs. Ages: 3+

**Tuesday 30th September 11am WOOD WORKSHOP** Join the Knox Woodworkers for this fun workshop. Choose your kit and place your order when you book. Ages 5+ $5 per kit to be paid on the day (cash only)

**Thursday 2nd October 1pm CARTOON DRAWING WORKSHOP** Join Adam Wallace for the opportunity to learn about cartoon drawing and even make your own. Ages 5+ $4 per child

**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.
WANTED
Two bedroom accommodations required as soon as possible. Mum (nonsmoker), 10 year old daughter and indoor cat. Great tenants with references. Please phone 0438 888 865.

MUSIC! ART! DRUMS! TREASURE! FUN! ADVENTURE!
Rumble in the Jungle is coming to Kallista these September school holidays! Tell your friends to join the jungle party as we explore a 3D psychedelic jungle landscape designed especially for children. Including a jungle obstacle course, music and drumming workshops, take home art and craft activities and a special concert performance. Rumble in the Jungle will be at the Kallista Mechanics Hall on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th September. Go to www.kiddyrock.com.au or email ally@kiddyrock.com.au for more info! LET’S GET WILD!

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

Extreme tennis
Term 4 Summer “Get Into Tennis” Junior Coaching Special Offer
Enrol for Term 4 and receive a FREE junior Racquet (RRP $30) (Offer valid only for new customers)
Coaching Venues & Days:
Ferny Creek Tennis Club – Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays
Selby Tennis Club – Tuesdays & Thursdays
Upwey South Tennis Club – Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Contact Stuart & Diana Sutterby @ Extreme Tennis 9759 6474 / 0412 106 416 / 0403 525 111
contactus@extremetennis.com.au    www.extremetennis.com.au

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

Monbulk Junior Cricket Club
If you know anyone who was a student or a teacher
Junior Indoor Pre-Season Training U13, U15 & U17s only       Friday 5th & 12th September 5pm-6pm Cost $5 at
Lilydale Saxon Sports 2/64 Cavehill Rd Lilydale
Junior Development Indoor Coaching Clinic – All Juniors    Specialist coaching during September
School Holidays FREE        Tuesday 23rd September 10am-12pm – U10s & U11s
11.30am-1.30pm – U13s, U15s & U17s
BBQ & drinks supplied at end of each session
Bayswater Saxon Sports 14 Gatwick Rd Bayswater North
Milo in2Cricket Registration Night Friday 17th October 5.30pm Monbulk Cricket Club Log Cabin
Contacts: Junior Co-ordinator Steve Utting 0402 344 895 utting.steven.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
Bronwyn Badgery 0488 566 443 bronwynbadgery@yahoo.com.au
More information on our website www.monbulkcc.vic.cricket.com.au

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