Dates to Remember

August
Fri 2nd
Fri 2nd
Sat 3rd
Fri 9th
Fri 16th
Tues 20th
Fri 23rd
Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College
Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College
Working Bee
Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College
Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College
Book Week Poetry Gr 3 – Gr 6
Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College

September
Mon 9th
Mon 9th
Fri 20th
Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Last Day of Term

Students Dismissed from 2.20pm

Amazing Camp Dioramas!

Students in Years 5 & 6 recently created some incredible dioramas depicting scenes from their camp at Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. If you have the opportunity, please take a look at the extensive display of dioramas in the Main Building, near the Library & Art Room. The students have shown extensive attention to detail and wonderful creativity in their work. Well done!

Punctuality

It is heartening to walk around our school in the mornings and see all the children on task, settled and working at 9 a.m. As you know, our bell rings at 8.50a.m. in the mornings and children head to class and are all unpacked and ready to start the day by 9 a.m. on the dot.
The morning is a key learning time for children and most grades are involved in Literacy activities at this time, so being punctual means that the children do not miss important instructions for the morning’s program from their teacher. We have noticed across the school what an improved attitude there is to punctuality at The Patch and this is so important in terms of preparing our students for secondary school – and for life in general!

Lynne Pearce
Assistant Principal
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark. *Chinese proverb*

Welcome back everyone; we have had a great start to Term 3. Congratulations to our Football and T-Ball teams for the fine effort they put up in the District Finals with very little notice and practice. As teams they represented our school with their best effort. Maybe with a bit more time we would have been victorious. I believe our “retro” football jumpers were a great sight on the football field.

Showcase
The Showcase has now moved to Tuesday October 29th to ensure we will have access to the full facilities at Discovery Centre in Mount Evelyn.
We are in for a wide range of performances:

- **Preps:** Peter Rabbit medley
- **Ones:** The Wizard of OZ medley
- **Twos:** The Muppets,
- **Three & Four:** A play written and developed by the children with Murrundindi on the Wurundjeri story.
- **Five & Six:** Roald Dahl’s Revolting Rhyme’s
- **Musical Interludes**

Information regarding ticketing and performance times will be coming home at the end of August, so circle the date and get the grandparents organised as we are in for a fun time of entertainment.

“Caring for our Community”
Often we have families who are experiencing difficulties either financially, health wise or with general management of their busy day to day lives. We are fortunate at The Patch School to have such a caring community when our friends are in need, whether they are children, parents or staff past or present. We would like to reconfirm that if you are experiencing any difficulties and would like some assistance, please come and talk to us as sometimes a listening ear can go a long way to helping. We may not be able to resolve the issue but we certainly are here to help in any way we can.

Congratulations to Yale and family who have a beautiful baby girl named Ari Rose born on Tuesday and also to Sophia who is expecting her second child in late December - we wish them both good health.

We currently have Marg and Angie on Long Service Leave, Lynne Pearce commencing Long Service Leave in a few weeks and I will also be taking leave from 30th August. Lynne Pearce will be Acting Principal during this time.

We are now beginning planning for 2014 however, before we can even begin to think about grade structure we need to have enrolments for Prep 2014 finalised. If you have a child commencing Prep in 2014 please make sure you have enrolled as soon as possible.

We are also asking those families who will not be at The Patch next year to inform us by Friday August 30th. Enrolment fluctuations impact on our level of decision making. This information will allow us to make informed decisions.

Have a great week

*Deb*

Herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
SECOND HAND BOOKS FOR GRADE 3 & 4s

The Grade 3/4s will be starting book circles for some of the students. We will need 4-6 copies of each of the books the students will read and discuss.

Following our school’s focus on sustainability, we’d love to source some preloved copies of these books if possible. If any Patch School families or extended families, have copies of the following books that they wouldn’t mind donating or lending to the Grade 3/4s for this year, could you please send them to school with your child with a note marked, “FOR 3/4 BOOK CIRCLES”. You may even find some of these books in a visit to your favourite op shop!

If you are loaning a book, rather than donating it, please name it and mark it appropriately so it can be returned to you at the end of the year. We can cover it for you with clear contact if you choose.

Most of the books have received awards such as “Children’s Book of the Year” or have been shortlisted for this award.

The list....

Blueback By Tim Winton
Black Brother White By Jackie French
Crow Country By Kate Constable
The Truth about Verity Sparks By Susan Green
Verity of Sydney Town By Ruth C. Williams
Lochie Leonard By Tim Winton
The Golden Door By Emily Rodda
The Red Wind By Isobelle Carmody
Just a Dog By Anna Branford Illustrated by Sarah Davis
Running with the Horses By Lester, Alison

If you have any other quality books suitable for Grade 3s and 4s you no longer need, they would also be greatly appreciated!

Many Thanks,
The Grade 3/4 team.

Great Teamwork!

Last term we run the successful Stomp the Beat Disco and the Grade 6 students & Staff organised a ‘Cupcake/Cordial Combo’ to sell on the night as a fundraiser. As you can see, it was a terrific team effort with parents & students baking and decorating some delicious cupcakes. The results were fantastic! If you have some time to spare and would like to join The team of parents who support school activities and help out in the classroom, drop into your child’s class and speak to their teacher. You’ll be be made very welcome!
Progress from the 5/6 Landscape Project

The Year 5/6s have been working on all types of things for the new garden surrounding their building such as designing, researching, preparing the site, painting, planting, watering and decorating.

Erica, Declan and Josh have been running up and down all over the school grounds collecting, moving and dropping off the mulch from the oval onto the newly pegged out and prepared garden beds that have been recently planted to stop weeds growing.

Rahni and Acalya have been painting the donated apple boxes (thank you to the Ryan family) and have also been decorating and painting the umbrellas with interesting designs and beautiful colors. There have been some awesome designs of stars, dots, swirls and squiggles.

Sam, Dylan, Mitchell, Joel and Jhendaht have all been busy planting the new plants purchased with vouchers from last year’s garden awards.

Maddie and Mia have been working on decorating the poles in front of the music room; the plan is to reuse some materials from behind the music room to create some outside instruments you can play when you are on your way to the music room.

Come and see our progress so far, it is very exciting!

By Emily and Gil (Grade 5)
Make Mealtime More Than A Pitstop

Mealtime can be like a pit stop in many households, where children pull up to a table or bench for a quick bite before resuming their activities. Eating can be a social experience that benefits the whole family rather than a refuelling exercise. Sharing a meal provides an opportunity for parents and children to talk, exchange views, swap news and maybe have a laugh or two.

Meals have the advantage of anchoring children to one spot long enough to hold a conversation. If you have very young children the notion of sharing a meal may be a little far-fetched. But it is worth persevering as family mealtimes can be the glue that binds children and parents together.

School-aged children, who have a great deal to share, are more than capable of making meal time a great social event. Adolescents, in particular, often appreciate a forum where they can air their views. If your family is pressed for time, schedule in at least one night a week where you can enjoy a meal together and guard this time jealously. Sometimes the meal table can turn into a battlefield as parents nag children to take one more bite or eat all the vegetables. Avoid fighting with children who refuse to eat. However, they shouldn’t be permitted to eat a snack following their meal.

Mealtime is a time for parents to listen rather than do all the talking. If your children are conversational clams then ask questions that spark some conversation.

In an era when it seems that everyone is busy, a shared mealttime with the television off may be the best investment you will make to your family’s well-being.

** This article and advice comes from Michael Grose who lectures on parenting and who has written many articles and books on parenting strategies.

** As the mother of two grown-up sons I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being brave enough to turn off the TV for half an hour and sit down as a family to eat, talk and even argue. It can be quite painful at times – but there are so many benefits that outweigh the negatives – one of my sons even told me recently how it really annoyed him to have to do this each night but that we did the right thing as a family and that he will do the same with his kids now!

Lynne Pearce
Assistant Principal

A Working Bee With A Difference!

Our next garden working bee is scheduled for Saturday, August 3 from 10am – 1pm and we hope to see you there because it is a little bit different to our usual working bees. Instead of all jobs based in our school Learning Landscape, this time we are combining our Fern Gully Restoration Project with some exciting new developments around our Year 1/2 and 5/6 classrooms. Both areas have extensive new garden designs created by the resident students to improve their learning opportunities and discover some important principles of sustainable design and living but we need help to get started on some of the more arduous jobs like cultivating the soil for our spring vegetable plantings and excavating pathways for easy access.

This is a great opportunity to see what your child has been doing in environmental science at these levels and to lend a hand to implement their plans. The Fern Gully Project is based at the back of the school garden site and will focus on planting ferns that have been “growing on” at Grandview Nursery (thank you Sands Family!) and clearing new sites for the next planting. Feel free to bring along your own tools (we do have some in our tool shed) and gloves and a plate to share for morning tea (this shall be served on the prep deck at around 11.30am).

Please see me if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Michelle Rayner
Environmental Science Teacher

(image courtesy of Michaela Tanti and Ruby Jones, year 6)
E.M.A.
If you were eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance at 15th July 2013 and have NOT yet submitted an application, we remind you that all applications must be in by Friday 2nd August. For an application form and further details, see the school website or click here.

School Start Time
To enable teachers to begin their learning time at 9am, we ask that students are in their classroom from 8.50am wherever possible. This allows students to organise themselves and be ready for effective learning at 9am. Without this settling-in period, valuable learning time is taken up and we can’t take advantage of the full teaching block.

You may have noticed that we also minimise disruptions from phone calls and PA announcements during the two learning blocks prior to lunchtime to maximise the effectiveness of this time.

Students that arrive at school after 9am will be marked as ‘late arrivals’ and require a parent to sign them in at the Office and provide the class teacher with the white slip.

**If you need to drop your child at school early, please remember that we offer a fantastic before school care program which costs $12 ($13 from Term 3) including breakfast or $6 without (before deducting any Child Care Benefit).

Excursion & Camp Payments
Parents are reminded that we require all payments for school activities by the due date unless alternative arrangements have been made with Deb or the Office staff. Due to the large amount of planning and preparation required for excursions and camps, your cooperation is vital.

If, for any reason, you are finding it difficult to pay for any school charges please do not hesitate to discuss the matter confidentially with Deb as there are often options we can offer you to assist. Unfortunatley, if no payment is received by the due date, your child may not be able to participate in the activity. We really don’t want anyone to miss out, so please speak to Deb if you have any concerns.

Get ready for a BIG day of shopping!!

The Patch School Fundraising Shopping Tour
Saturday 19th October 2013

If this year’s Shopping Tour fundraiser is as much fun as last time, you will be in for a terrific day!

We will be visiting a few new outlets & incorporating some toys and childrenswear, enjoying a delicious lunch and still returning before 6pm.

Being closer to Christmas you can get a head start on your Christmas shopping!

Cost will be $50 and pick up/drop off will be The Patch School and opposite City of Knox offices, Wantirna South.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card and feel free to pay in instalments if that suits your budget better (min credit card payment $15).

The more the merrier so why not bring a friend?
Community Notices

**Successful Transition to Year 7**
The Outer Eastern LLEN has engaged Angie Wilcock author of *The Transition Tightrope – supporting students in transition to secondary school* to conduct a ‘Successful Transition’ workshop for Year 6 parents and Year 7 teachers. The Workshop will be held on:

**Wednesday August 21 at The Karralyka Centre Mines Rd Ringwood from 7pm – 8:30pm**
The workshop is FREE of charge however, **booking is essential**.
Tel: Cherie Messerle 9723 2717 or Email: cmsesserle@oellen.org.au
Further details can be found by clicking here and being re-directed to the school website.

**Sherbrooke Sun’s Spot Basketball News**
This Sunday 21st July at Belgrave Heights Christian School the Sherbrooke Suns Championship Men and Women both take the court for their final home games of the season. Both teams are facing the Ringwood Hawks with the Championship Women tipping at 1pm and the Championship Men taking the court at 3pm. GO SUNS!
Also, don’t forget that the Aussie Hoops program officially gets underway at Cockatoo Reserve Stadium and Monbulk Secondary College Stadium at 10:00am this Saturday.

**For Sale**
Theatre tickets for the Magic Pudding presented by the Victorian Opera Saturday 5 October at 6.30pm. I’m selling 3 adult and 2 children tickets. Cost $160.00 will sell them for $120.00. The adult tickets can be used by children. Contact Nerea on 0417 582 036 if you are interested.

**FOR HIRE Bounce-A-Rama Jumping Castles**
We have five very enjoyable castles! Looney Tunes, Cars, Scooby Doo, World of Disney and a massive Princess Castle!
Hire our castles for Parties, Carnivals, School Fetes, Work Break Ups, Fundraisers or Just for Fun!!
Contact Ian 0419 882 132, Amanda 0431 219 065 or email moks66@bigpond.com

**Monbulk Junior Cricket Club**
WE welcome players for the 2013/2014 season in Under 17, 15, 13, 12, 11 and Milo In2Cricket (5-9yo)
Junior Registration Night – Wed 21st August 6pm at Monbulk Cricket Club Log Cabin
Junior Indoor Pre-Season Training – Jnrs

**Unr Development Indoor Coaching Clinic – Jnrs**
Specialist Coaching – September Holidays No Cost
Tues 24th September 10am-1pm finishing with a BBQ
Bayswater Saxon Sports 14 Gatwick Rd Bayswater North

Milo in2Cricket
Fri 11th October 5.30pm Monbulk Cricket Club Log Cabin
All new players receive club shirt & hat. Big Brother/Little Brother program. Senior players assisting with Juniors
Family functions. Call Steve Utting 0402 344 895 utting.steven.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
Bronwyn Badgery 0488 566 443 bronwynbadgery@yahoo.comau
Cliff Cleary 0410 608 493 cvendingservices@gmail.com www.monbulkcc.vic.cricket.com.au

**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 9756 7515, 0407 049 012 or email chrisjw@netspace.net.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 !