Patchwork News

Dates to Remember

October
Sat 19th  Staff Shopping Tour
Mon 21st   Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 21st   School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Tues 22nd  Prep Orientation 9.30am – 10.30am
Tues 22nd  Puberty Education Parent Info Night
Tue 29th   **Showcase**
           (Students at Discovery Church all day)

November
Fri 1st    Curriculum Day (students not required at school)
Tue 5th    Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Wed 6th    Prep – 2 Swimming Program
           - Fri 15th
Thur 7th   Book Fair
           - Thu 14th
Mon 18th   Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 18th   School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Thur 21th  FREE DRESS supporting State Schools
           Relief – Gold Coin Donation

December
Mon 2nd    Prep 2014 Parent Information Night
           7pm – 8pm
Thur 5th   Prep & Buddy Excursion
Tue 10th   Year 7 Orientation Day
Thur 12th  Carols Evening
Mon 16th   Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 16th   School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Thur 19th  Gr 6 Graduation
Fri 20th   Last Day of Term 4

uniform Shop

Our current Uniform Shop volunteers are handing on this responsibility to a new team of parents lead by Claudia Dykstra and Jane Ferguson.

Running our Uniform Shop is a large task to undertake and we sincerely thank each of our current volunteers – particularly Sue Flynn, Lynda Loveridge & Edith Elias - for the time, energy and effort they have brought to this role.

With this change also comes a change in opening times. Please note that next Wednesday 23rd October will be the final Wednesday opening.

From the following Monday 28th October, the Uniform Shop will be open **every Monday from 8.45am to 9.15am**.

Remember if you are unable to attend the Uniform Shop during opening time, you can always leave your completed order form and payment at the Office any school day except Friday.

Welcome back to school for term 4! We especially welcome the new families who have started with us recently. We hope you enjoy being part of The Patch School community 😊
From the Principal...

Term 4 - where does time go! I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Lynne Pearce who during my absence at the end of last term managed the running and organization of the school with professionalism and with such a wonderful caring and calm manner.

The last week of Term 3 was an exceptionally emotional time. The genuine support, care and help from staff and the parent community was once again beyond words – our school is such a unique and wonderful place to belong to.

Thank you all; we still have a little way to journey from last term but with your support we will face anything that life throws us. Please remember life can be short and we never know what will happen next. Take the time – as I know you already do - but maybe add an extra hug or story or time with your loved ones as family is so important.

As our term moves quickly forward we will commence grades and staffing for next year. All children at The Patch for 2013 will know their teachers and grades on our Step Up Day into 2014 on Tuesday 6th December. This coincides with the Year 6’s Orientation Day to high school. All children in Kinder to Year 5 will step up to their new grades from 9.10 until 11.00 on this day and meet with their new teachers.

To assist us with preparation for this day - if you haven’t enrolled for 2014 or are moving house and schools please can you let me know by the end of next week? We can then begin to place teachers and children ready for 6th December. This is a time when speculation begins. If it has not been in print from me then it is just this - speculation. I would like to assure you that at this stage until numbers are confirmed placements have not been finalized.

The things I can definitely let you know are:

Lynne Pearce will be retiring at the end of the year - as will Margaret Hallinan. More information about their farewells will follow in the next few weeks. These two teachers will be greatly missed as they have been involved at The Patch for many years and contributed to the culture, education and shaping of our school. Their caring, kind and professional ways are valued by myself, staff, parents and the children – they will be missed. Also, you may be aware that Kylie Craig will be taking maternity leave for 2014 and we wish her a safe and happy time in the upcoming birth of her child. Finally we have Lynne Schmidt who has qualified as a teacher and as secured a position at Marranatha college. Here dedication to our school and work in our Integration program will be sorely missed.

Our Prep teachers for 2014 will be Marita, Lesley & Alesha. They are very excited and looking forward to meeting the new Preps and their parents on Tuesday morning. All three of these teachers bring a wealth of experience to this year level.

GREAT NEWS! We have been successful with our expression of interest in conjunction with Gembrook PS in our Science Specialist Initiative.

What is the Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists initiative?
The Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists initiative is aimed at building teacher capacity and boosting primary students’ engagement and achievement in mathematics and science.

The objective of the initiative is for schools to have trained science specialists, working both with students and with teachers. As a result, it is anticipated that teachers working with specialists will gain greater confidence and capacity in teaching science and students will be more engaged in science, with improved outcomes.

More Exciting news! We have been successful in winning the Shire of Yarra Ranges Habitat Award again. Congratulations Year 3 and 4 for your outstanding work. If you would like to see the presentation please check the front foyer display by the year 3 & 4 children. Next week at assembly we will be receiving our award from the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Curriculum Day and Planning Week:
Friday the 1st November is our curriculum day. This is a pupil free day and students are not required at school. On the Monday 4th November, the day before Cup Day, all teachers will be having a Planning Day in preparation for the end of the year and commencement of 2014. Teachers will be working on and planning from our Curriculum Day on the Friday. As usual the Monday will be an alternative program and we will have employed our usual CRT (Casual Replacement Teachers) to work with students at school on this day.

Lots of news and information!

Have a great weekend,

Deb

eherrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
**Curriculum Day – Friday 1st November 2013**

Please note that students are not required at school on this day. See notice below for details if you are interested in your children attending the Curriculum Day program offered by OSHC.

---

**Heartfelt Thanks**

We would like to thank, once again, the many families in our school community who have sent back pink reply slips offering to help us in a variety of useful ways in caring for two special little boys. We have been brought to tears on several occasions by your wonderful generosity of spirit, your willingness to help in whatever is needed – and your compassion for the situation itself. Thank you sincerely from the two of us, from our whole staff and from the beautiful family who are presently nurturing and caring for these two boys.

*Lynne Pearce and Kellie McDonald*

---

**CURRICULUM DAY**

**Friday 1st November 2013**

Our OSHC program is offering a Curriculum Day program for the above date. Activities based in the Hall will be organised for the children and the cost will be $35 per child.

**Please note** that we require a minimum number of bookings for this program to go ahead. If you would like your child to attend or require further information, please call Sheila during OSHC program hours or contact the school office.

To enable us to plan appropriately, bookings can be accepted no later than Friday 25th October.

---

**Payments**

At The Patch School we try to incorporate valuable excursions & incursions to support the curriculum and add another dimension to your child’s education. We also offer a wonderful OSHC program invoiced fortnightly. Thank you to those families who make a big effort to pay for these school activities on time.

Receiving full payment by the ‘pay by’ date is important in administering the programs we can offer your child for many reasons:

- It confirms definite numbers attending
- Enables appropriate planning for the required number of adults to supervise
- Allows office staff to plan their work schedule effectively
- Ensures that the school covers all expenses associated with the activity

If you chose to pay by sending your credit card details in, please be sure that all digits and expiry date are correctly recorded on the slip and funds are available as we sometimes find card payments are declined for these reasons. Unfortunately this creates double and sometimes triple the work before the payment is finally processed.

We appreciate how busy life is for our families but your assistance with this matter would be appreciated greatly. Thank you.
Environmental Science News

It has been an exciting time for The Patch School environmental science program recently with presentations in Japan sharing our sustainability story (see last newsletter) and making global connections with countries within the Asia-Pacific with commitments to build sustainable communities through inspirational and innovative community projects. With links made during the recent visit, we hope to establish a Japanese sister school and have even had discussions around a possible Japanese artist in schools program (fully funded).

In addition to this, the Yarra Ranges Council has announced us as this year’s winners of the Habitat Plan awards in recognition of all the planning and actions around our school habitat improvement. This area of the curriculum has been the focus of the 3/4 enviro program and the students have worked very hard to promote and protect habitat for wildlife in our school grounds. The school will receive $700 for more plants, a magnificent trophy of a sugar glider and opportunities for further learning in this area. Next week at assembly, a representative from the council shall come and present our certificate to the whole school; keep posted for photos or better still, come along. The overview of the award winning habitat plan is on display in the foyer.

A big thank you must go to our wonderful families who helped feed our animals over the holidays. Our volunteer carers group continues to grow and we are very grateful for your support and dedication to our program.

Finally, next Tuesday night 12 staff and parents from our hard working garden team shall attend the 2013 Premier’s Sustainability Awards as one of three finalists for our Learning Landscape Program (environmental science program) in the Education Category. Our submission was short listed for its holistic approach, innovation, commitment, community links, sound partnerships, clear educational outcomes, sustainability ethos and practices and whole school participation, empowerment and ownership. It is indeed an honour to be considered for this prestigious award. It will be an interesting night sharing all the other finalists in the 9 categories all working towards greater environmental sustainability in their workplaces, educational institutions, businesses and organisations. More news of the outcome next week.

Have a great weekend,
Michelle

Delegates at the UNESCO conference in Japan. Can you see Michelle?

More photos on next page...
Our award-winning Habitat Plan entry.

Simon and Anthony from Yarra Ranges Council with Michelle, presenting at the Experts Workshop.
Great News About Communicating to our Families!

tiqbiz is a great way to communicate with you via electronic devices including your smart phone, tablet or PC. You need to simply download the app as detailed below, sign on to our school and the categories that are of interest to you and get ready to receive lots of school information quickly and effectively!

If you sign up to tiqbiz, you are welcome to unsubscribe from our regular newsletter alerts, as the newsletter will be sent direct to your electronic device 🌻

Find and tick our school

1. Log-in
Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.

2. Find our school
Click the ‘Find’ icon and type our school name into the search bar. You will now see all of our school boxes.

3. Tick on
Click on the grey tick beside our school box and any other boxes that apply to you. When the tick turns green, you’re connected.

4. Inbox
Click on the Inbox icon. This is where you will receive our information

Technical Support 9am-5pm Mon-Fri (AEST)
Victoria (03) 9800 1489
New South Wales (02) 9091 6926
Queensland (07) 5641 4565
South Australia (08) 8121 5851
Western Australia (08) 9467 5730
Email team@tiqbiz.com

---

We’re now using an app to send our messages, newsletters and notices.

The tiqbiz app will help our school keep parents fully informed and up-to-date with newsletters, notices, news and events.

It’s easy to use and also has the benefit of helping reduce our paper consumption by printing less.

The first step is to download tiqbiz to your phone, tablet, computer... or all of them.

Search for: tiqbiz

Available on the App Store
iPhone and iPad

Important: Click ‘allow’ notifications when asked.
This is to allow your school to send you important alert notices.

Android smartphone and tablet.

Windows & Mac computers.

Once installed, follow the steps on the next page to tick on our school.
Senior Athletics Day

Congratulations to our students who competed and were placed at the recent District Track & Field Championships. They went on to represent us proudly in this week’s Eastern Metro Region Track & Field Championships. Great Job!! Full results available at https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/Conferences/SouthEasternConference/EMR/Pages/TrackAndField.aspx
NOVEMBER BOOK FAIR!

The Patch Primary School Book Fair starts Thursday the 7th of November at 3.30pm and finishes 9.00am Thursday the 14th.

Christmas is just around the corner, so it’s the perfect opportunity to start early on your shopping and support the school at the same time.

The Book Fair held in May raised $600 for our school library – a great result, so thank you to everyone who supported the fair.

The Book Fair starts at 3.30pm on Thursday the 7th of November.

See you at the Book Fair!

Cheers, Josie

---

Growing Gorgeous Boys Into Good Men

Adolescent boys – they seem to disappear into another world where they barely communicate, and where fast cars, alcohol and drugs are constant temptations.

Will they survive and become good men? How can parents and schools understand them and help them through this difficult and dangerous time?

Celia’s entertaining and enlightening view of what goes on inside the world of boys – an entirely different world from that of girls – offers parents practical and reassuring advice on raising their boys to become good, loving articulate men.

Light refreshments provided

DATE: Wednesday 20th November 2013
TIME: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
VENUE: Karralyka Centre
Mines Road
Ringwood
HOST: Outer Eastern LLEN
in partnership with Male Health
Victoria
Community Notices

Belgrave Traders Halloween
Celebrate Halloween safely in the Main St of Belgrave! Saturday 26th October 11am – 1pm.
Dress Up – Face Painting – Grab a Chart & Follow the Trail

Christmas Family Fun Day
Saturday 23rd November 10am – 3pm courtesy of Monbulk Christian Fellowship
Rides – Animal Farm – Crafts – Fun!! Santa on a fire truck at Noon! All rides FREE!!

Cockatoo Little Athletics
The Little Athletics season starts on Saturday 12th October.
We invite last season’s members and all kids wanting to join, to come down and achieve their best.
Athletics is great fun and we welcome new members. Matt Stickland, President  0414 971 463
We offer a 2 week trial.Kids aged 5 to 16 welcome at Mountain Road Reserve, Cockatoo
Details on website: www.cockatoolittleathletics.org.au  (& Facebook)

Burrinja Open Day
Free activities and events for the whole family...
Learn how to play the Ukulele and join in a group performance, take part in the biggest drawing festival in the world, see local talent in the theatre, enjoy a free art workshop, join an exhibition tour, Play With Clay - your opportunity to create clay items to take home, paint and cherish, and create a mythical creature for our “Underwater World” made from recycled materials, pick up a treat at the annual Treefern Potters sale, support the local CFA sausage sizzle, and be entertained by story tellers, exhibitions and much more. Hope to see you there!
Date:  Sunday 20 October
Time:   11am - 3pm
Venue:  Burrinja Cultural Centre, Cnr Glenfern and Matson Drive, Upwey
Admission:  Free

The annual Kids Fun Run With Thomas will once again be held at Gembrook Puffing Billy Station on Sunday, 24th November. There will be fun and games for all the family. The Kids Fun Run with Thomas is a Rotary Club of Emerald & District fundraising event with the theme ‘Kids Helping Kids’. What better way to raise funds to improve the health of children, than through the exuberance and enjoyment of healthy children. Thomas the Tank Engine has such a special place in the hearts of children, young (and old), that the day is filled with bright-eyed excitement as the children run alongside the train.
The funds raised by the Kids Fun Run with Thomas 2012 will be used to purchase needed equipment for the Children’s Ward at the William Angliss Hospital in Ferntree Gully.
For more information and REGISTRATION, visit www.kidsfunrunwiththomas.org.au

Tecoma Dental – Winter Specials 2013 – It all starts with a smile 😊
Maximum out of pocket expense:
$20 Check up for kids under 14  $160 Check up, clean, x-ray & treatment plan
$1000 Porcelain veneer, crown (per tooth)  $450 In chair teeth whitening
$130 Personalised sports mouthguards
Check ups & other services could be FREE based on your health insurance cover.
Call 03 9754 2148 Book online at www.tecomadental.com.au  Visit us at 1586 Burwood Hwy Tecoma
All health insurances accepted. Offers expire September 2013.
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 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!

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.