Dates to Remember

**December**
- **Fri 13**th: Last Day for Lunch Orders
- **Mon 16**th: Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
- **Mon 16**th: School Council Meeting 7.15pm
- **Tues 17**th: End of Term Concert 9am-11am
- **Thur 19**th: Gr 6 Graduation
- **Fri 20**th: Last Day of Term 4

*Assembly now at 12.30pm*
*Students Dismissed at 1.30pm*

**January 2014**
- **Thur 30**th: First Day Back for Grades 1 – 6
- Welcome back 😊

**February 2014**
- **Mon 3**nd: Preps Start School and Finish at 1.30pm (except Wednesday)
- **Mon 10**th: Preps Finish School at 3.15pm from this Day

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**Final Assembly for 2013**

We hope you can join us for the last school Assembly for 2014 as we acknowledge some very special people:

- Farewell to Lynne Pearce & Marg Hallinan who are retiring from teaching
- Farewell to Lynne Schmidt who is taking a teaching role at Maranatha Christian School
- Farewell to Kylie Craig who begins family leave in anticipation of the arrival of her first baby
- Farewell to Karl Leibel from The Patch Store who has provided us with our lunch order and postal services for many years

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*We wish you and your family a safe, fun and relaxing Festive Season.*

*Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2014 for another fantastic year!***
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: *The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.* - Arthur C Clark

This is our last newsletter for the year and on Friday the 20th of December it will be both a sad and happy day as we farewell our Year 6 children and we leave for holidays. I would like to acknowledge the following families who will move on as this is their last child at The Patch School. Many of these families have had a long association with us and we wish them every success and happiness.

The Bilson-McAlister Family
The Maginness Family
The Pal Family
The Issell Family
The Dockery Family
The Hamilton Family
The Macdonald Family
The Staindl-Dymond Family

The Farnell Family
The McClelland Family
The Tanti Family
The Mischon Family
The Gillard Family
The Ireland Family
The Radley Family

The Jones Family
The Moutsidis Family
The Ducrow Family
The Barker Family
The Hall Family
The Leach Family
The Royle Family

We are also saying goodbye to Amber Beukema, Georgia Grimmer, Jay & Kane Boyd, Will Ellerton and their respective families.

On a happier note, next year we welcome graduate teacher Kent Agis to our school and congratulate Michelle Rayner on her appointment as Acting Assistant Principal.

As a community - parents, children and teachers - we have all faced uncertainties like any community. We have had many ups and downs but we have also shared many celebrations. We are truly fortunate at this school to have such wonderful children, parents and teachers. As always, the teachers have remained true to their passion – teaching your wonderful children. Keeping them happy and educated has been foremost in their minds.

Our Emergency Management Plans have been updated to meet the new requirement set by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, sent to our Regional office and are available for you to read on the school website. It is important to note that the documents are exceptionally large with specific versions for school, OSHC and Bushfire plans. We have a smaller, practical version that we use for staff.

I wish you all a great and relaxing break – we are looking forward to 2014.

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

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School Closure on Code Red Days

A reminder for the commencement of Term 1 2014 – We are identified as being at high risk on the Bushfire Register and, as such, will be required to pre-emptively close on days when the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is Code Red. More information is included in this newsletter and will also be available next year.

On days of Total Fire Ban (TFB) all children need to be picked up from drop off and no children will be permitted to walk home or leave the school without an adult. This has been the case in Terms 1 & 4 since 2009. It is important that all parents have alternative arrangements in place for these days. Also as these days occur and you choose to pick your child up early you must sign your children out at the Office.

As part of our regular duty of care, role marking after the children have come in from lunch will occur. This is even more important during high fire danger days. In the event of a fire we would waste several precious moments trying to work out where children are if they have not been signed out. I can only implore you to make sure you follow this very simple procedure.

Deb Herrmann
Principal
Good-bye and Thank You from Lynne

As most of you know, I am retiring from teaching next week after 40 years in the Education Department. The Patch has been such a wonderful place to finish my career and I have just loved my 8 years at this school. I have met so many lovely people – staff, parents and children. Over the years here I have shared a class with Pauleen, Karen, Kellie, Kate, Alesha, Tania and Jennie – and have just loved working in these team teaching/shared grade situations with such dedicated and supportive teachers. The Patch is an easy school to teach in because your children are mostly well mannered and well behaved - we are very lucky here because we just do not have the issues that some other schools have with discipline and tone.

I will miss very much being with children every day and hearing their cheery hello’s to me as they pass by. I will also miss all my colleagues here at The Patch and those of you who I have got to know more closely as we have worked together on your children’s behalf.

I have loved being a teacher – there is no other job I would have rather done and I love all your children – even the slightly naughty ones!

I leave my much loved career a bit sadly but at 63 years of age it is time to spend more time with my husband Greg who is recently retired too. We have a trip planned next year to the Silk Road, our second grandchild due in March and lots of other plans so there is much to look forward to.

Thank you for all the kind words and thanks I have received in recent weeks - no person could leave their career of 40 years feeling more valued and more loved than I do and I thank you all for the friendship, respect and warm hearts you have always shown me.

Lynne Pearce
Assistant Principal (for one more week!)

Surprise Life!

It was very surprising on Tuesday November 10th, when a new baby blue tongue lizard was discovered in the lizard enclosure. We didn't expect this as we thought both adult blue tongues were males. We believe it is a cross species of a Northern and an Eastern Blue Tongue. Miles and Ethan, the two people who discovered the lizard, named it Camo and we are now happy to welcome Camo into our animal society.

By Ethan Teasdale & Miles Farnell
A SINCERE THANK YOU TO AN AMAZING COMMUNITY

I don’t have enough words to express my sincere gratitude for the love and support that has been extended to my family while we have been supporting Jay and Kane. Every biscuit, cake, meal, box of fruit, box of vegetables, voucher, house cleaning, donation to the boys’ trust, weekends at holiday houses, freezer delivered, offer of assistance and respite for my own kids and hand of friendship has been genuinely appreciated and has contributed to helping Jay and Kane through this incredibly sad time. As a community, we should be so proud, that in the face of such a tragedy we have banded together to do everything possible to get these gorgeous boys through the hardest time in their lives. How lucky we are to have each other.

A huge thank you to Lynne Pearce and Kellie McDonald who coordinated all the help and have been there from the start and have listened to every sad, frustrating, angry and, finally, happy moment along the way. It certainly has been an emotional roller-coaster.

Thanks also to Deb Herrmann for being flexible and supporting anything we needed to get done for the boys, including a day visit to their new school.

Another huge thank you to Trish Lewis who has been by my side for every emotional step of this story - I could not be more grateful for Trish’s help when we had the heart wrenching task of preparing the boys for their mum’s funeral. This is a conversation I never want to have again with any child.

I would also like to acknowledge Brad Dimech (Sebastian and Annais’ dad) for his incredible fundraising effort for the boys’ trust fund - the money will be used to support the boys into the future. Everyone’s kind donations have already ensured they will have a lovely Christmas day and be spoiled by Santa. I will keep you updated on how our donations help the boys into the future.

James and I are now preparing for the last heart-wrenching part of the journey, saying good-bye and letting go, not my strong suit!! We are, however, sending the boys off to the next chapter of their lives with the confidence that they are going to a loving home, to a dad who can’t wait to have them and to a new school that will give them the same care and support they receive at our school, but in a smaller school setting. The most reassuring part is that Jay and Kane are as strong and prepared as they could be and are both excited and happy about their future. It’s a happy ending...

Merry Christmas and thank you all.....

Alesha and James
Happy faces from last week’s Assembly!

What a Great Effort!
On Wednesday the 4th December, some Grade 3/4 students went to Silvan Primary School for the first cook off we’ve ever had. In teams of four, we had to cook a main meal and a dessert. The mains’ team was Scarlett Munn, Jake Whitford, Patrick Blandthorn and Kate Watson. They cooked a garden frittata.
The desserts’ team was Indigo Sangster, Sam Thomas, Mia Childs and Jude Thompson. The Patch team cooked rhubarb and apple crumble. We won the dessert section of the competition.
We competed against Emerald and Sivan Primary Schools. We were supposed to compete against Olinda Primary School but they didn’t show up for unknown reasons.
We were also trained by a chef, Julian Thomas, owner of Chocolate Sensation in Belgrave.
We had to use at least two things from our school garden in each dish. We used spring onions, rosemary and parsley, eggs from our chooks, lettuce, rhubarb, mint, lemon and raspberries. Each team had one hour to have their dish ready and kitchen clean. It was fun.
We learnt that different ovens have different temperatures and times to cook. We had to check everything frequently so it didn’t burn. It was really fun and we felt really important and professional. Both our teams worked really well together and cooperated.
From Scarlett, Mia and Indigo
Farewell to Lynne Pearce

Last Thursday Lynne’s family, friends, staff from The Patch School and teachers from far and wide gathered in our Library to celebrate the career of one of our most valued and loved teachers.

Whilst The Patch didn’t exactly turn on its best weather, this didn’t deter Lynne’s family, friends and colleagues from celebrating her 40 years of teaching service and listening to some wonderful stories about her experiences as an educator. We even discovered that Lynne can be just a little bit naughty sometimes!

Lynne has worked in country schools, metropolitan schools and overseas and has amassed a wealth of experience and knowledge but her most endearing qualities include her compassion towards others and the amazing connection she has with her students. Lynne has had an enormous impact on her colleagues here at The Patch, team teaching with many and mentoring graduates who have gone on to become great teachers themselves. They all credit Lynne with teaching them the many valuable skills that aren’t necessarily taught at university. We were fortunate to hear speeches from Brendan Fitzpatrick (ex-The Patch School), Alesha Sangster and Pauleen Gould, all of whom shared the things they learnt from and loved so much about Lynne – the incredible thing was that those same special qualities were valued and appreciated by each of them.

It goes without saying that we will miss Lynne very much but we are also very excited and happy for her, knowing that she is about the embark on a very special part of her life where she can enjoy travelling and her other interests as well as spend more time with her family, particularly her beautiful granddaughter Annabel, and await the arrival of her second grandchild. We are sure Lynne’s life will be just as full and interesting in retirement as it has been during her career!
Recently Georgia Grimmer, Indigo Sangster and Georgia’s mother, Tracy, attended the Victorian State Schools Garden Awards held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, South Yarra. Representing The Patch School as last year’s winner, Georgia and Indigo had the pleasure of handing over the paintings, which were part of the perpetual prize, to this year’s winner. After the presentation, the girls spent some time exploring the Children’s Garden before heading home again.
**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop is now closed for the year and volunteers are completing a stock take. No more orders can be accepted now until 2014. Thanks for your support throughout the year and a very big ‘thank you’ to the hard working parents who have made this service available to the school community. You certainly are an amazing team!

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**Christmas Carols Concert**

The sun finally came out for yesterday’s Carols Concert and we had the most delightful evening. Thank you to our dedicated staff and enthusiastic students for a very enjoyable performance. Thanks also to our supportive families who shared some of the magic of Christmas with us all.

Merry Christmas!
Chapter 1
I'm John, some people call me Jack. I was born in Africa. My mum died when I was 2. I have 1 big brother, his name is Isaac. He once saved me when a lion came running at me. Then Isaac threw a spear in its head. The lion screamed and fell to the ground. Now I'm living at my old house. You know that he saved me when I was 4 but a sad thing happened 5 weeks ago. Isaac got taken by some men to become a slave in England.

Chapter 2
Now I'm a free man and I live at a house 300m away from the beach. I have a wife and 2 sons, but I am poor. I do not have good clothes. I need more money to get clothes and food. I walked into my house and I saw my kids on the ground starving and my wife, she said, “We all are hungry.”
I said, “What do I need to do?”

Chapter 3
“Steal something.” said my wife.
“No,” I said.
“But we need to steal to stay alive.” said my wife.
I said, “Okay, fine.”
The next day I got up and started going to the market. Then, when I
ran past, I saw a clothes shop. I looked at it. It says it’s closed.
Then I look around and then I stand back and kick down the door.
There’s loads of really good clothes. I ran up and took a handful then
I ran. When I got home I saw that no-one was there. I thought,
“Oh no!” Then a guard ran in.

Chapter 4
I was caught. I got sent to a jail. I’ve been here for 5 days now, so
today I’ve been sitting on a bench. I had a friend but he died 2 days
ago.
“Hi. Get up! You need to go somewhere.” a guard said. I got up.
Two days later, I arrived at a big building. I got pulled out of a cart
then pushed in to a building. I sat down and then the judge said,
“John, you were caught stealing clothes. I sentence you to 7 years of
hard labour in The Great Southern Land!!”
Two days later, I arrived at the dock in Manchester, England and
was pushed onto the ship, “Alexander”.
Four days later, it’s the middle of the night and I’m lying

Chapter 5
Down in a shelf-like thing. In here, it is revolting. I smell poo, wee,
vomit and sickness. I get let out once a day and get food once a day.
Eight months later, I am on my shelf, then a sailor just said, “I see
the Great Southern Land!”
Then, I think that another convict heard because 16 convicts got up and started to walk to the upper deck. I got up and joined them.

2 days later
We got let on deck and were put in to row boats. Five minutes later we were on shore. It was not like home it was filled with Indians.

10 days later
I’m in a convict tent; there are 23 convicts in here.

Chapter 6

7 year later
I am finally a free man. I am walking to my land that was just given to me. I am there. It was bush. Then I saw 9 convicts walking to my land. I ran up to them, they said “How are you? A guard sent us here to clear land.” “My land?” I ask. “Yes!” said the convicts.

4 days later
They clear my land and build a house for me. My house has a chimney and 2 rooms. I am now sitting down. What should I do as a job? I’ve got it! I am going to be a police officer!

2 weeks later
I am a police officer. It is very hard. I arrest more then 50 people a day. Now I am at home. Just then my wife and my kids ran in. They were convicts. I said “What did you do?” I pick pocketed a wallet.

I had the opportunity to read Isaac’s story last week and enjoyed it immensely. I thought it was something the rest of the school community would enjoy too as it highlights not only what Isaac has learnt in class recently about Australia’s convict history, but showcases his wonderful imagination and storytelling ability. Congratulations Isaac on a job well done!

Jody Yandle
Art Materials
Thanks for the fantastic amount of recycled items you have provided throughout the year. We now have plenty of these materials to work with and sadly can’t squeeze any more into our cupboards. We kindly ask that you hold on to any recycled items you are collecting for us until further notice. Thanks for your help 😊

Final Payments for 2013
Please note that the final day for OSHC & fee payments at the Office will be next Wednesday 18th December.

TEAM LEADERS O.S.H.C. 2013
Congratulations to (left-right) Faith, Patrick, Gil and Luke for their leadership in our Out of School Hours Care program throughout this year. Well done!!
Your School... Your Community

The Community Sub-Committee of the School Council has been meeting and discussing a range of issues affecting the school and the community – it has been a valuable part of the community connectedness of the School Council.

The main purpose of the Community Sub-Committee is to be a forum for discussing ideas and suggestions from parents and be a voice for community building in the school.

Our aim is to continue to build stronger links across teachers, students, parents the Early Learning Centre and the broader community.

Some of the projects that the Community Sub-Committee have been working on in consultation with teachers and school staff include:

- **Communications** - identifying ways the school communicates - working on providing some consistency to the way that grade newsletters are issued, came from these discussions. Work across the website, messages from the school and new initiatives on signage comes from these discussions. We’ve initiated the feedback mechanisms to hear from parents.

- **Caring for the Community** - looking at ways we can provide assistance to school community members who need support has also been part of discussions in the Sub-Committee.

- **Building Links** – we have been discussing ways to build links across the school and across the community, including with business.

- **Promoting The Patch School** – we are now actively discussing a range of ways to promote The Patch School and The Early Learning Centre.

- **Other projects** are on-going and include building stronger links and cross-promotional opportunities for the school and the Early Learning Centre, developing a marketing plan to ensure we can take every opportunity to promote the school and looking at how the school is branded.

To continue to consult and hear from parents, we encourage you to consider the following ways that you can engage...

1. Provide un-solicited feedback or suggestions
   You can provide your feedback by either email or note form...
   - By email: community@thepatchps.vic.edu.au
   - In a note and pop it in the Feedback Box in foyer at school

2. Ensure you complete the parent survey when it is issued (before the end of the year)

3. Attend the next Community Sub-Committee meeting and bring your ideas of what you think we could be doing. Next meeting (anyone interested is welcome to attend) is:
   **6pm, Monday 16th December at The Patch School**

A key part of our work is to listen and hear from you – so let us know what you think!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Matt Clear
(Father of Maya, Niamh and Dash)
0403 229 094
clear.matthew@gmail.com
Community Notices

Musical Art and Artful Music Christmas Gifts
Tracey Roberts (performing and visual artist - and a Patch School parent) is opening up her gallery / studio on Saturday 14th December from 2-5pm - happy to chat about music, art, music-colour synesthesia and geodesic domes. Colourful, musically themed limited edition prints, art cards, CDs and the new Blu-ray release are available to buy direct from the artist. All welcome. Plenty of parking spaces. 25 William Rd, The Patch. tel: 0418 872 444 (also open by appointment). Also available to purchase on-line.
See www.traceyroberts.com for more info.

Santa is Coming to Town!
The Kallista-The Patch fire truck with Santa on board will visit between the hours of 5.30pm – 7.30pm. The following areas on dates noted below will be visited:
19th December 2013 – Sherbrooke area
20th December 2013 – The Patch area
23rd December 2013 – Kallista area
Listen for Christmas carols in your street!

Monbulk Community Carols
The Monbulk Community Carols will be held on Friday 20th December at The Pines, near the Rotunda David Hill Rd, Monbulk at 7.30pm. A BBQ by Rotary will commence at 6.30pm together with Festive Fare by St George’s Anglican Church, Monbulk.

Special Christmas Community Market
Indoor & Outdoor Market – handmade, arts, crafts, design, fair trade & vintage.
Saturday 14th December 10.30am – 3.30pm
Belgrave South Community Hall, Gilmore Court Belgrave South (off Belgrave-Hallam Rd)
Horse & cart, Santa Claus, magician, dancers, singers & drummers.

Ferny Creek Tennis Club – Tennis Family Fun Day
Sunday 9th February 2014, Ferny Creek Tennis Club Hilton Rd Ferny Creek
Free beginner coaching sessions with Xtreme Tennis. Try out some cardio-tennis! Fastest serve competition!
Free sausage sizzle, soft drink and icy poles. Ball machines. Prizes, including lucky door prize of FREE 12MONTH MEMBERSHIP. New member discount. Social tennis after 4pm. Bring a friend!

Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club Registration Day 2014
Mark the Date! 8 February, 2014, 10am – 12pm, Olinda Netball Courts
A great way to meet new friends and play a team sport. Teams for: Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s, Under 17s and an Open Team. Early bird registrations are welcome
Talk to Deb Andrich: 0407 514 103 or Ann-Maree Baker: 0418 395 070. Or email us at sassafrasfernycreeknetballclub@gmail.com Find us on Facebook or www.sportingpulse.com.au

Monbulk Aquatic Club FREE 2 WEEK TRIAL
Does your child love swimming? Are they ready to take the next step into swimming squad?
Just turn up at any of our training sessions for a FREE 2 week trial. Squad is great for kids who want to swim for fun, fitness or competition. Session times (excluding public holidays) Monday – Friday Juniors 6pm – 7.15pm Junior State & Seniors 6pm – 7.30pm.

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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 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.

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