Dear Parents,

There is a great deal going on in our first week back, so please take the time to catch up on a few things outlined below:

**Showcase**
Ticket sales are now open for our spectacular “Showcase” on Tuesday 29th October!
Details are:
- Discovery Church, 89 Monbulk Road, Mt Evelyn
- Performances at 12.30pm and 7pm
- Tickets $15 per adult & $8 per child (under 17 years and not currently attending The Patch School)
- Bookings can be made at [http://www.trybooking.com/65076](http://www.trybooking.com/65076)

**SMS Notifications / tiqbiz**
To enable us to disseminate information effectively to parents & families, it is important that you register for our electronic systems of communication. We have been using an SMS system for several years now but, as new technology develops, we are always looking for better ways to keep you informed.

**We are now using the ‘tiqbiz’ app for smart phones, tablets & computers to also provide you with information.**
We ask that you download this app from [http://www.schoolapptiqbiz.com.au/](http://www.schoolapptiqbiz.com.au/) onto your smartphone, tablet or computer as this will eventually replace the SMS system. Note that we will be running both applications until further notice.
Tiqbiz has its own help desk for users, so if you are having difficulty with the app please don’t hesitate to call 9800 1489 between 9am - 5pm.
The benefit of tiqbiz is that there is no maximum message size (no 160 character limits as per SMS) and photos, documents and even the newsletter can also be sent to you – all free of individual charge, aside from a very reasonable annual fee paid by the school. Currently, every time we send an SMS out to the whole school it costs $25.

**We particularly stress the importance of registering for these services as they will be the method of communication in the event of an emergency and, as we head into the warmer weather, we need to be well prepared and mindful of our emergency management plan for bushfire and have effective communication systems in place.**
If you have registered with tiqbiz and no longer require to be included in SMS alerts, please contact Jody in the Office to be removed from the database, which saves you from receiving the same information twice and also keeps our costs down.

**Newsletter**
There is no newsletter today as we publish fortnightly from week 2 of each term.
With the introduction of tiqbiz, we will gradually phase out our current newsletter alert process through MailChimp to avoid double handling wherever possible – another reason to sign up to tiqbiz!
The ‘Subscribe to Newsletter’ button on our homepage will be disabled shortly.
Copies of “Patchwork News” will always be available on the school website so you can browse at your own convenience.

Thank you for your assistance and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries regarding these matters.

Deb Herrmann - Principal